

MINUTES

PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD MEETING

January 14, 2008

PRESENT: **Charles Rollins**
 Dean Lay
 Lex Orr
 Marvin Brannan

This meeting of the Monteagle Public Utility Board was called to order at 9:05 AM by Mayor Charles Rollins.

The following items were discussed:

- 1. Jim Boynton gave an update on the current water situation. He said we are drawing about 227,600 gallons per day out of Laurel Lake at this time plus purchasing 50-60,000 gallons a day from Tracy City. We are not taking on any water from the sand plant or Lake Louisa at this time.**
- 2. There was a discussion on Kelly Layne's meter, the car wash, and the laundramat. Mr. Boynton recommended that Layne's Detail Shop be taken off of the list of businesses that need to be curtailed. His average usage is just 2230 gallons per month. The car wash used about 98,960 gallons per month and the laundramat about 84,780 gallons per month. There was a discussion on allowing Thompson Brown and the laundramat to re-open with city water but only allowing 50% of the average previous usage. Ald. Lay made a motion to remove restrictions on Kelly Layne and to allow him his normal usage of 2230 gallons and that Thompson Brown's car wash and the Summerfield Market laundramat each be allowed 50% of their previous 9-month usage which would allow 49,480 for the car wash and 42,390 for Summerfield Market, that the meters be read weekly and be disconnected when they reach these amounts, and that they be automatically approved for this amount of usage for the following month if the council fails to act on this. Ald. Orr seconded**

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the motion and it passed 4/0 on roll call vote. The council will review the usage of these two businesses monthly. Ald. Lay noted that Mr. Brown previously stated that he gives complimentary car washes for the police department vehicles. He said until the restrictions are lifted on Mr. Brown's car wash the city should decline any free car washes for the police vehicles. This will conserve water and also help him financially.

- 3. It was noted that at this time we do not have a full-time certified water plant operator. Mr. Boynton said he would like to hire a licensed operator at \$14.00 per hour. We would then need the certified operator and one other plant operator at the water plant. The current contract we have with a certified operator would be discontinued. In the meantime we will work toward getting our second plant operator certified. Mayor Rollins noted that the sediment in the raw water basin needs to be cleaned out. There was a question as to why this wasn't done during the three months we weren't pumping any water. All agreed that it should have been done during that time.**

- 4. Jim Boynton reported that Beth Jones is encouraging the city to use the ARC grant that we received for a water tank. At this time it appears we do not need the tank and there was a discussion on using these funds for the work that South Pittsburg will need to do. Ms. Jones feels we can get another grant when the tank is eventually needed. After a discussion on this grant, Ald. Lay made a motion to request a change of scope for the \$500,000.00 ARC grant from a water tank to the South Pittsburg water line with the contingency that if Monteagle does not receive water from South Pittsburg that any and all money that Monteagle spends for work done in South Pittsburg is to be reimbursed and that this stipulation is to be included in any contract we have with South Pittsburg. Ald. Brannan seconded the motion which passed 4/0 on roll call vote.**

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- 5. In regards to the half-million dollar RDA grant, it was reported that Monteagle has taken all steps that we need to take for this grant.**
- 6. Mr. Boynton reported that he has been meeting with engineering firms about a lagoon system at STP #2. He has asked Arcadis to do some redesigning also. He noted that STP #1 will eventually be closed.**
- 7. It was suggested that we review our contract with Tracy City. With a plant that is running properly we will be able to accept all of Tracy City's sewage.**
- 8. Mr. Boynton told the board that he has started working on a Drought Management Plan. He will have it ready in the near future.**
- 9. Ald. Lay said he feels we need to create a separate rate for hardship cases. He said he had recently talked to a home owner who is retired. Her water bill was \$60.00 without sewer. He feels we need to assist low-income customers with water saving devices.**
- 10. It was reported that Homeland Security has approved a grant to the Town of Monteagle for video surveillance equipment for Laurel Lake.**
- 11. The board feels we should establish a written policy on water taps. There are questions being asked every day about new water taps and we need to establish a uniform response to these questions.**
- 12. The discussion on hiring a certified plant operator was taken up again and Ald. Orr made a motion to authorize the public works director to negotiate to hire Ken Hall with a 90-day probation period at \$14.00 per hour. Ald. Brannan seconded the motion and it passed 4/0. Mr. Boynton said that the job description for this position**

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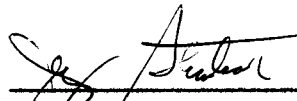
needs to be revised. Ald. Lay asked for a comparison of current wages and what the cost difference will be with the new operator.

- 13. The city recorder asked about paying a bill from United Systems. They provide our software for accounting. The bill is under \$200.00, but we have a support contract which costs us about \$1100.00 per year. When our computer's hard drive crashed, they helped us reinstall the program and billed us for this stating that this was a hardware problem not a software problem. Our contract, according to them, is for software support only. The board instructed the city recorder not to pay this bill.**

It was announced that the next meeting of the Public Utility Board will be at 5:00 PM on January 21, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Joy Sturtevant, City Recorder