

Mayor David Anderson called the special council meeting of July 22, 2014 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Ron Smith, Connie Wells, and Tom Mayo, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, City Attorney Andrakay Pluid, City Bookkeeper/Payroll Clerk Christine McNair, Economic Development Coordinator David Sims, and Water Treatment Operator Doug Ladely. Also present were Necia Maiani from Welch Comer, Suzanne Scheidt and Anna Moody from Department of Environmental Quality, Dale Simpson, Ruth Sutton, Loretta Hunsaker, Charlie McCrum, Dorothy Smith, Marcia Cossette, Al Brown, Jerry Higgs, Kirk and Devonna Dixon, Bob Graham, Dave Gray, Shelleah Bushnell, Adam Newhouse, Brad and Karen Hanson, and Jim Marx.

Bob Graham said he got the impression at the last meeting that the City took on a lot of problems when they took over the North Water District. He said the North Water and Sewer District belonged to their customers, not the City of Bonners Ferry. Bob spoke about the wholesale water rate being charged to the North Water district and said it was not cheap. He said the system was up to date and no one on the North Water Board knew of any lingering problems. Bob said they had two maintenance men on staff and a professional engineer on retainer. He said they turned over \$145,782 in cash and approximately \$9,000 in receivables to the city. He said the wood structure roof on the north tank held up for over forty years. He suggested that we look at a similar type roof again.

Bob said there is a bad storm coming our direction in the next couple of days, according to the predictions, with heavy rain and lightning.

Jerry Higgs said he wanted to address the issue of water quality in terms of illness and reporting. He said the Center of Disease Control has defined certain reportable illnesses and requires if such an illness is found that it be reported to the municipality's customers. He said in 2009 he was diagnosed with giardia as well as his four dogs. Jerry went to the VA Hospital and they did not report this. The veterinarian did. He followed it up with Panhandle Health and the VA Hospital had not reported it. Jerry got sick with salmonella a few months later and the VA Hospital had reported it to Panhandle Health. The procedures and regulations that we have in affect are only as good as those that are enforcing. Jerry thinks the city should do more to make sure that the water quality is where it should be. One of the issues is the city's lack of backflow regulations. He had a discussion with EPA Region 10 in the Seattle area regarding the backflow prevention and that prompted the city to modify its backflow protection/prevention ordinance. He said the city has done what it can to protect the public but it ends there because we have a city administrator with a very anti-regulatory attitude in performance of his job. Jerry said we do not send employees on private property to inspect services to see if they have the proper backflow prevention devices. He said it is required by EPA and Panhandle Health, not an option. Jerry has a backflow prevention device servicing his sprinkler system a few feet away from his water meter. He asked what the sense is for him to pay a fee to someone to inspect the backflow prevention device he has when others do not comply. He said there are other managerial issues and the city has someone on their staff that does not take regulation enforcement seriously and willfully ignores the regulations in place.

Brad Hanson said he has heard rumors about the water issues and wanted to know if this will be discussed this evening regarding the history and actions that will be taken to inform the public about this issue.

Ron Smith asked if the public will have a chance to speak later in the meeting if they have a comment. Mayor Anderson said he does not have a problem with people speaking if they keep their comments brief.

Connie Wells moved to add a late agenda item for approval of a special event permit for the Run for the Fallen for Sunday, July 22, 2014 and to consider waiving the fee. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Stephen Boorman introduced Anna Moody and Suzanne Scheidt from DEQ, Necia Maiani from Welch Comer, and City Water Treatment Operator Doug Ladely. Stephen said when the Northside tank was inspected and rodents were found we tested the water from a number of locations and no ecoli or coliform was found. We are meeting all the water quality standards. He said we are inspecting the tank twice a week, will test more frequently, run our chlorine a bit higher (1 part per million at the farthest customer on the system) and long term we are looking at putting a concrete lid on the tank as they are the standard today. Stephen said there will have to be some structural analysis done on the tank as we do not have drawings on the tank. We will then have to go through the bidding process.

Aaron Clark from the Bonners Ferry Herald joined the meeting.

Ron Smith said when the city took over the North Water System there was approximately \$145,000 that was turned over to the city for maintenance and upkeep of the system and asked if there was any maintenance since the city took over the system. Stephen said we spent that money on capital improvement projects for the water system. Kris Larson explained that the city took over management of the North Water and Sewer District and South Hill Water and Sewer District on October 1, 2006. We billed the customers and paid their bills out of their respective checking accounts until the consolidation was finalized in January, 2007. The money was then sent to the State Treasurer Investment Pool in separate accounts for each district. We kept the funds there until the water projects were completed in 2010 and then merged them with the city funds. The amount transferred into the city from North Water was \$122,473. Ron asked if we had spent the \$122,000 on that system would we be sitting here discussing the problems with the tank. Stephen said the tank was not identified in the water master plan and we worked on the projects identified in the master plan. The biggest project specific to that area was the upgrade of the line from the tank to the Marx Estates. It is a 16 inch main.

Ron asked how the rodents are getting in the tank. Stephen did not know. Doug said they are getting in through the roof structure. He explained the tank has to be able to move air so the roof has vents that we have screened. Doug explained the screening, caulking, etc. that took place to seal out any rodents. He said we cannot find any holes where they may be entering the tank. Ron asked about the engineering and where the idea has come from to construct the concrete lid. He asked if anyone has looked at all the options. Mayor Anderson said Welch Comer will look

at this and make a recommendation. Necia Maiani said the water master plan did not identify the Northside tank lid as an issue. It was not a deficiency in 2004 when the master plan was developed. She listed off many of the other projects that were identified in the master plan. These included pressure issues in the Marx Addition, old steel lines, the chlorine contact chamber, water storage issues, and waterline improvements. She said over \$600,000 was spent on the water projects on the Northside.

Suzanne Scheidt said the entry of mice in the water reservoir increases the risk of contamination of the water supply if we don't have adequate treatment at the reservoir. She said we are putting the users of the system at an increased risk. Ron wants the notice to go out immediately. Suzanne said the notice will say the water supply, because of the entry of vermin into the reservoir, does increase the potential for contamination. Suzanne said if a person wants to avoid that risk they should use bottled or boiled water. She said the notice is more of an educational message so the customers are aware and can make a decision that fits them. Infants, children, elderly, and compromised immune population could have more serious consequences if the water supply was contaminated. Brad Hanson asked what the risk was, viral infection or bacterial infection. Anne Moody said the potential is for either one. Suzanne said there is a treatment applied to the water before it is discharged to that reservoir and there is a chlorine residual when it makes it to that reservoir. She said if vermin were to enter the reservoir and create a situation where contamination would occur, we may not have enough chlorine in the water to deal with that. We don't test for microbial pathogens that could be in the water supply so there is a potential risk. Mayor Anderson asked about testing for microbial pathogens and if we should test differently. Suzanne said it would be very difficult if not impossible to test for these as the lab technology does not exist. Suzanne said chlorine kills coliform bacteria immediately. Council asked if we should test more often. Suzanne said testing once a week and checking the tank twice per week and increasing the chlorine residual out distribution to provide extra protection is what is recommended until a permanent fix is provided. She said we need to let folks know there is an increased risk during this period.

Ruth Sutton ask what the risk is of ending up with halo acetic acids in the water from the added chlorine like we had in 2009. Doug explained that halo acetic acids are disinfection byproducts when you run higher chlorine. They interact with inorganics in the system. Doug said when we run our system normally we run it on a .7 to .8 parts per million but now we are running at 1 part per million. Suzanne said the potential for disinfection byproducts is usually when there are high organics coming into the water from Myrtle Creek during other times of the year. Doug said this particularly happens in the spring and fall. Stephen explained the city used to chlorinate the water before it hit the filter beds because we did not have enough time but now it is treated after the filtering so that has helped a lot.

Rick Alonzo asked how often we are checking for rodents. Doug said we are checking every day now but we used to check it in the spring and fall. Most problems occur when it is dry as animals are looking for water. Rick said there is probably no greater risk now than there ever has been but because of the knowledge that vermin were found makes everyone more vigilant in trying to keep them out and copasetic for people drinking it. We could have had it better or

worse a month ago. Connie Wells asked why David did not bring this up to the council in 2010 and why it is so important now. David said he did and Stephen did a bit of the ground work but did not follow through. He said he could see nothing was happening. Connie asked why he waited four years. David said he could have and maybe should have made it public then. Connie said she does not recall this being brought up before and she thinks she would remember. Mayor Anderson said we did some remedial work. David said we drained the tank to do some piping and it was pretty disgusting. Doug said we did a lot of work at that time and disinfected the tank. Jerry Higgs said he remembers the discussion of the concrete tank lid several years ago. Jerry said he has been told there was a bat and two snakes in the tank. He said the real issue is viral infection because chlorination has little or no efficacy for decontamination for viral infections. He also spoke about the hanta virus and said it transfers very easily. He said if we are speaking about bats we are possibly speaking about rabies. This issue has to be addressed pronto.

Ron Smith spoke about the letter in 2010 to Michael Camin from David Sims and the letter recently received from Suzanne at DEQ and was wondering why we still have the problem. Karen Hanson asked why the public was not informed earlier because of the infants and other immune compromised people. Ron thinks we should have sent out notice earlier.

Mayor Anderson said we will hear from Welch Comer on the feasibility of what can and cannot be done. He said there is still some territoriality about the money that was brought in when the consolidation occurred. He said the improvements to the water system were directed by the water master plan. He said none of the water system was neglected as we followed the format of the master plan. He said we stuck by what we saw as needs to our water system and the system was antiquated and needed improvement. We thought we had remediated the problem previously. He said the regulatory system is expensive and limits what we can do unless the rate payers want to pay more. We want to keep everybody safe, and nobody was slighted by where they lived, who they were, or by what tank serves who. We had a paid professional helping us with the improvements and we now have a paid professional to help us through this.

Necia Maiani from Welch Comer said she has a list of improvements to the water system that were done. She said we are looking at a hollow core pre-structured roof because it is a standard for concrete structures. She said if we look at a wooden structure we will likely be looking at the same issues we have today in a few years. She said a steel structure requires more maintenance and it may not be cost effective. She thinks a concrete roof structure would be the best for the cost. Necia said the first question is whether or not the structure can handle a new roof structure. She drew a picture on the white board for the group to review. She said the tank has been there since 1922 that is why Welch Comer has proposed to evaluate the existing structure. There are no record drawings. She said the tank will be drained and an x-ray will be done to see if there is rebar in the tank. An inspection will also be done to see if there are cracks or if it is strong enough to support the roof structure. Tom Mayo asked if the venting is considered to be the problem and if so what would the new roof have. Necia said the new roof would have vents at today's standards. Bob Graham asked if there are other options at less cost. Necia said there may be but we are trying to do the best long term fix with the least amount of maintenance. Brad

Hanson said the analysis of the tank should be done first before we do anything else. Necia said she was trying to demonstrate that there are two paths we could follow and explained that Welch Comer is trying to do the analysis first. Brad said we need to know if the vermin are coming from the lid. Doug said they are as there is no other place to come in to the tank. He said there is a screen on the inlet pipe and on the outlet pipe. David said Stephen has done some of the calculations to see if the tank can support the concrete lid.

Necia said the contract amendment #14 with Welch Comer is for the replacement of distribution piping from the current city round Northside tank to the rectangular Northside tank as half of the line has been replaced and the other half of the line needs to be replaced. Necia explained that we are trying to save costs by having the survey crew here once. She said if easements are needed we will have to work those out with the city legal department. Mayor Anderson asked if the piping was original. Stephen and Doug thought it had been replaced previously. Jim Marx said the pipe was very difficult to replace due to the steepness of the terrain. He said there was wooden pipe alongside the pipe that was replaced in the 1970s. Jim said there is a drawing with the pipe system. He said the city's pipe was not on their property several years ago so a trade was made to get this taken care of. Jim said the tank has been there a long time and if we put any weight on it that the tank would have to be sealed where there is to be attachments. The city had an eight inch line and North Water went to a twelve inch waterline. Jim said there are three pounds of water pressure that fills the Northside tank. He said the city put a meter on the line from the city tank to the Northside tank. Doug said this is now gone. He said it had a two way feed so the hospital could get water from the city or the hospital could be fed from the other tank. Jim said the Restorium used to go dry when the city shut off their meter. Jim said he did not think there has been any problem since the city put in the other feed to the hospital. Bob Graham said the North Water System is a gravity feed from the city tank to the Northside tank and the entire North Water system as there are not pumps. Jim said the rectangular Northside tank is higher elevation than the city round Northside tank. Jim said when the 12 inch waterline improvement put a lot of water volume in the system. Jim said there are a lot of places where mice can get into a house so he does not know about that. He said we look pretty good since there are open tanks in other areas that get many other outside elements. He said we look pretty good and no one has died from it so maybe this is being made out to be worse than it is. He said the line designed by Welch Comer was a noble stroke as the volume of water is much better. He said part of the new system made a great improvement to the water system. He said one of the rebuilds was done in the 1970s.

Ron Smith asked how many customers we are talking about and if the hospital is served off that tank. Stephen thought there were about 300 customers and the hospital is not normally served off the rectangular tank. He said there is a pressure reduction valve near the hospital so if there is a fire we could draw off the rectangular tank. Doug said we could shut the valves off and isolate what customers are served. Doug said it is a fire flow issue but he could identify the customers served. Stephen said there are enough concerned citizens that we will probably send the notice to everyone on the Northside and put the notice in the paper.

The scope of work on the transmission main replacement is to review what easements are needed and identify the work and submit it to DEQ for approval. Necia said the next step would be bidding and construction phase and it could be done with the tank lid project if we choose to do it that way. She also spoke of construction oversight services. She said the total cost would be \$6,400 lump sum services for design work and \$7,800 ceiling including bidding and construction phases that are hourly. Necia said the first task would be to do an analysis of the tank including an x-ray of the tank. She said the ground penetrating radar will be to see if there is rebar in the existing walls of the tank. Tom Mayo asked if the concrete degrades. Necia said the water department has a plug from the tank that can be analyzed. She also said they will inspect for any cracks in the tank. Stephen said the tank walls are 16 inches at the bottom and 8 inches at the top. She explained the proposed engineered roof hollow core panels with a concrete surface. She said the contract would be hourly and would not exceed \$14,450 not including the ground penetrating radar. This would include the city providing project administration. She said it may take up to three weeks to get the contractor here to do the radar of the tank. Doug said the tank can be drained quickly and filled within hours. Rick said we would need two days to drain the tank and do analysis. Doug agreed. Tom said fire flows will be the biggest issue. Doug agreed. Stephen said the location of the tank is not ideal so we need to get the work done before winter. Ron asked if the area will be without water. Doug said no one will be out of water. Stephen said we have one easement left to obtain and we have contacted the property owner. He said if we would like to do the project as a turn-key project the contractor would have to figure out how to get the trucks in and out of the tank area. Stephen said replacement cost is about \$1.50 per gallon so the tank is worth about \$225,000.

Necia said Welch Come has allotted an amount for design but depending on what is found that could change. She went over the schedule for the project. Suzanne said DEQ will do an expedited review of the project for us. Necia said the city would save time if we ordered the panels prior to the construction. Tom asked what the cost of the roof would be if we go with the panels and concrete slab. Necia said we have \$100,000 estimated. Connie questioned what the weather would do to the project. Necia said it will be a problem. Connie asked if there is a problem with waiting until spring due to access rather than rushing the project. She expressed concern about the weather causing problems with concrete curing.

Mayor Anderson said we have worked well with Welch Comer and it is his recommendation to approve the task orders. Rick Alonzo moved to approve the Welch Comer agreement for evaluation and design the roof of the rectangular Northside tank. Connie Wells seconded the motion. Loretta Hunsaker asked if the city has the money for the project. Stephen said we do have it but we are reorganizing our priorities. She asked if the customers will see a rate increase due to this project. Mayor Anderson said we will not see a rate change specifically for this project but we are trying to build a reserve based on the size of the system and we are short at this time. Brad Hanson asked if there is something short term that we can do to mitigate problem until the fix is complete. Stephen responded that we are keeping the brush back and chlorine is being put down on the ground to keep the animals and brush down. Brad asked about the holes where the rodents entered the tank. Stephen said we have not identified where they are entering.

The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Connie Wells moved to approve the agreement with Welch Comer and Associates for replacement of the waterline to the rectangular Northside tank. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. Ron Smith said he checked with Andrakay today to make sure she had reviewed the contracts and she had. He would like to see a signature by the city attorney on the documents before council sees them. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Andrakay said we can get around expediting the bidding process by declaring an emergency but it does not eliminate the public works contracting licensing.

Mayor Anderson said there is a woman from Charleston, South Carolina that is profiling a veteran from each of the fifty states that is involved and Mayor Anderson is willing to take names of special Bonners Ferry veterans. She wants one from Bonners Ferry. Jerry Higgs suggested LeRoy Vogl.

Rick Alonzo moved to approve the special event permit for the Run for the Fallen to be held on July 27, 2014 from the Veterans Memorial Park to Mirror Lake Road. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Mayor Anderson reminded the group that there will be a meeting at the Becker Auditorium on August 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. for the water/sewer rate study presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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David K. Anderson, Mayor

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Kris Larson, City Clerk