

The regular monthly meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority was called to order by Chairman Phillip Moore at 12:00 p.m. in the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum was present.

Present: Phillip Moore, Melissa Allen, Kurt Giles, and Roxann Harrington.
Absent: Don Pray and Tom Reed.
Also present: John Willemin; Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Keith Risdon; City of St. Louis, Jeremy Zalud; Isabella Corporation, Ron Turner; City of Alma, and Sara Youngs.

Motion by Giles, seconded by Allen, to approve the minutes of March 11, 2016.

Yes: Moore, Allen, Giles, and Harrington.
No: none.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Harrington to approve the request for payment from Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber in the amount of \$8,799.00 for services rendered February 13, 2016 through March 11, 2016

Yes: Moore, Allen, Giles, and Harrington.
No: none.

Motion by Giles, seconded by Harrington, to approve a request for payment from RCL Construction Co. for pay application #24 in the amount of \$261,823.00.

Yes: Moore, Allen, Giles, and Harrington.
No: none.

Theo VanWalmenich of CHM2 Hill arrived at 12:04 p.m.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Harrington, to approve a request for purchase from Dixon Engineering and Inspection Services in the amount of \$19,455.00 for consulting/inspection services during the steel water reservoir paint project.

Yes: Moore, Allen, Giles, and Harrington.
No: none.

John Willemin, of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, offered the following engineer's update:

Water Plant

- Control programming, testing and debugging work remains in progress. FTCH has been called to the plant to go through the controls. Several corrections were noted and issued to the Contractor.
- The chimney liner repair materials are on order.
- The Mechanical inspector is going to require emergency stops be installed for the new boiler. Steps are underway to get pricing for that work.
- Testing of the filters will be conducted when the control systems are complete. FTCH has reviewed the water chemistry and provided feedback to the plant. We will be working with the filter supplier to further investigate filter performance.

- Partial Substantial Completion will be acknowledged for several major components of the work that are in service. We are waiting on RCL for proposed warranty dates on some equipment to finalize the date.
- RCL requested a reduction in the retainage. They were instructed to provide a Notice of Consent of Surety in order for that to be considered.

Booster Stations

- Punch list work and contract closeout is ongoing. A revised punch list was issued to the Contractor.

South Transmission Main

- Punch list work and contract closeout is ongoing.

Raw Water Transmission Main/Well 9 Well House

- The Well 9 Raw Water Transmission Main is complete. Final as-builts to be issued.
- A revised punch list for the Well 9 Well House Punch was issued to JR Heineman. They are still working on closeout documentation. A final change order will be processed to set final contract dates and adjust total contract price. It is anticipated that the project will finish over \$70,000 under budget.

Giddings Elevated Water Storage Tank

- Site work is going to resume in the next few weeks.
- No cost changes are currently pending.

The Contractor is tracking days lost to weather and has indicated two lost days to date.

- Logo selection is complete. Pricing for logo work was solicited from three other painters due to high cost from the contractor. The low quote will be accepted by the City. Logo application will occur after the top coat of paint is applied (August time frame).

Hydrogeological Study/Wells

- Pilot holes for Wells 10 and 11 have been installed. Casing installation was scheduled for this week, but called off due to wet weather and access issues.
- Attempts to secure easements to allow Route 1 for the raw water transmission main were not successful. Route 3, which does not require any easements, was approved by the City.
- Survey and soil borings have been scheduled based on Route 1 for the raw water transmission main and the Wells 10 and 11 Well Houses.
- Wells 10 and 11 well house design is in progress. A 30% set was issued. Comments have been received from EPA.
- The application package or a special land use permit for the Wells 10 and 11 Well Houses has been issued to the Township. A meeting with Acrada Township is scheduled for April 19, 2016.
- The design schedule for Wells 10 and 11 will be determined after the soil borings are complete. Early May has been targeted for issuing documents for permitting and bidding.
- Discussions on Well 12 will continue with EPA. Identification of a suitable site is recommended as soon as possible in order to allow time for design and bidding in order to allow construction in 2017 season.

Authority member Allen asked about opposition to easements for the project. Willemin doesn't feel it will be a problem, but the route can be changed to avoid having to seek easements. An alternate route was proposed earlier in the day. VanWalmenich answered questions about the new route. Early estimates for changing the route add \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 to total costs.

A meeting is planned with the EPA later this week to discuss options. This new plan is essentially Plan #4 and each plan has its own challenges. The route will depend largely on funding. Willemin is hesitant to continue preparing for a route that may have to be changed. Moore and Turner were invited to attend the meeting between St. Louis officials and the EPA. The decision on the route will fall to St. Louis. Chairman Moore plans to discuss the issue at the City Commission meeting on April 12, 2016, to bring attention to the current problems.

Turner noted that the biggest problem will be getting enough water to supply two cities during the pendency of the project. A change in the route and resulting delays will not only involve added construction costs, but will include additional costs for staffing, labor and run time at the plant to keep levels up.

Motion by Giles, seconded by Harrington, to receive the Engineering report.

Yes: Moore, Allen, Giles, and Harrington.

No: none.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Harrington, to receive the financial statements as presented.

Yes: Moore, Allen, Giles, and Harrington.

No: none.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Harrington, to receive and approve Warrant 16-3 and the several amounts scheduled therein, also to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks for payment of the same.

Yes: Moore, Allen, Giles, and Harrington.

No: none.

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Allen, to approve a proposal from Harper Industrial Construction Inc. for a change order in the amount of \$3,338.00 to include the extra work needed for repair of the pump at the river pump station.

Yes: Moore, Allen, Giles, and Harrington.

No: none.

Jeremy Zalud from Isabella Corporation asked for copies of route drawings and information concerning bid requests.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Harrington, to adjourn the meeting at 1:16 pm.

Yes: Moore, Allen, Giles, and Harrington.

No: none.