

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT CITY HALL, APRIL 12, 2011 AT 4:00 P.M.

The following were present: Commissioners Buzzett, Gingell, Stephens and Johnson. City Manager Charlie Weston, City Attorney Tom Gibson and City Clerk Jim Anderson were also present. Mayor Magidson was absent from the meeting.

David Kozan presented the CDM Technical Analysis.

Commissioner Buzzett indicated that we have a lot of material to review and would like the Readers Digest Version.

Mayor Magidson joined the meeting at 4:06 P.M.

Mr. Kozan noted that once the City switched from Ground Water to Surface Water a number of complaints arose due to Red Water. Organic Material and Alkalinity requires a different treatment process. The Corrosion Inhibitor creates a barrier between the pipes and the water.

Commissioner Johnson asked, "Can the Corrosion Inhibitor remove the scale in the pipes?"

Mr. Kozan responded, "Yes, the challenge is that we still have a lot of loose scale in the pipes."

Commissioner Buzzett indicated that many people have stop calling about the water quality. We need a good reporting system.

Mr. Kozan responded, "We had a decrease in the number of complaints once the correct dosage of Corrosion Inhibitor was used."

Philip Jones notes that we are targeting all 2" metal pipes for replacement.

Mr. Kozan indicated that the Corrosion Inhibitor can't do a thorough job if it doesn't have metal to adhere to.

Mayor Magidson responded, "So it's futile to add inhibitor if it can't reach the metal."

Mr. Jones noted that we have seen the worst affects in the galvanized pipes.

Commissioner Johnson asked, "Is there a Corrosion Inhibitor that works better?"

Mr. Kozan responded, "Each vendor has a different blend."

Commissioner Johnson asked, "How long could it take to see positive results?"

Mr. Kozan responded, "It could take years." He recommends using a new blend.

Commissioner Gingell asked, "Is there a product that will seal the pipes?"

Mr. Kozan responded, "A lime process is possible, but it's not cheap."

Commissioner Stephens noted that nothing has been cheap and we have bad water all over town.

Mr. Davis indicated that we are currently using a 70/30 blend of Corrosion Inhibitor designed to soften and coat the lines. Without high velocity flushing, the scale has nowhere to go. The water was best after the flushing to skower the lines.

Mayor Magidson indicated that we had numerous problems in town on Saturday night.

Mr. Grantland asked, "Without a significant event, how can this happen?"

Mr. Kozan responded, "Some type of Hydraulic event is all I can think of."

Tracie Norwood noted that the complaints went sky high because we have flushed volumes of water thru the system.

Lynn Todd indicated that we have gone from proactive to maintenance.

Commissioner Johnson asked, "What are the man hours that will be needed for Unidirectional Flushing?"

Mr. Grantland indicated that it took five employees pretty much all day to complete the last Unidirectional Flush.

Commissioner Johnson asked, "How long will it take to flush the system?"

Mr. Grantland responded, "It will take a month and a half to flush in town and approx. four months system wide."

Mr. Weston indicated that we know we should flush, but at this time, he doesn't think we know what type we need. We need to quantify the complaints.

Commissioner Stephens noted that we still have the problem; people just are not calling to complain.

Commissioner Johnson asked, "Mr. Kozan what would you do?"

Mr. Kozan responded, "I would try a new version of Corrosion Inhibitor and flush one round. If that's not successful, use different chemical such as lime and Carbon Dioxide or change to Ground Water."

Commissioner Stephens asked "Will our system work with lime?"

Mr. Davis indicated that our system wasn't designed for lime.

Mr. Kozan noted that when you start changing the finished water, it can make it difficult to use free chlorine.

Mr. Davis indicated that the quality of ground water varies. The problem is the water quality rules that affect TTHM's.

Mr. Kozan noted that Lime and Carbon Dioxide would help increase scale, but would require modifications to the Water Plant of approx. 1.7M and reverting back to Ground Water would cost approx. \$3.1M. The ways to resolve this issue are relatively limited. Cedar Chem has said similar things, consider changing chemicals.

Commissioner Johnson asked, "What part of the water study says if the city replaces all the distribution lines we could still have red water due to the lines at each house and business?"

Mr. Davis agrees with Mr. Kozan.

Commissioner Buzzett asked to compare Bay Co. Water v/s City of Port St. Joe Water.

Mr. Kosin stated Bay Co. makes good water, but we have old pipes in my subdivision. There is a challenge with old pipes.

Commissioner Buzzett asked, "Why does it appear we have more problems on the hot water side?"

Mr. Kosin replied, "I'm not sure."

Mr. Davis thinks the heat may degrade the Rust Inhibitor."

Commissioner Buzzett noted that we have been working on this for over a year and staff has done everything suggested, but we still have a problem. No one told us we would need additional equipment to go back on ground water. I think it's time we insist on an answer to get back on ground water in an emergency situation until we get our pipes replaced.

Mr. Davis indicated that our ground water pumps are old and we have so many variations because our system was not designed to treat Ground Water.

Commissioner Buzzett feels that as long as we meet our lead and copper requirements we would be ok.

Mr. Kosin indicated that we could only use Ground Water in an emergency situation.

Ms. Todd is concerned that if we drill deep enough we could have salt water intrusion in the aquifer.

Commissioner Buzzett asked, "Has there been a long term study of Rust Inhibitor on the human body? People are not drinking our water; we are charging a high fee for an inferior product."

Ms. Norwood asked, "How can we keep a good data base if people don't call?"

Commissioner Johnson asked, "Can't we have a dedicated phone line for Red Water issues?"

Mr. Weston feels that we can get good data by creating a survey of 75 to 100 customers a month.

Mayor Magidson thinks that we need to encourage people to report water problems because we are trying to resolve this issue. We need people to assist us.

Ms. Norwood indicated that because we are not out flushing, the number of complaints will be creeping up.

Commissioner Buzzett asked, "Mr. Grantland do we have the resources to flush?"

Mr. Grantland responded, "I have eighteen employees to cover water and sewer."

Commissioner Buzzett asked, "What do think about using Lime and Carbon Dioxide?"

Mr. Davis responded, "A lot of unknowns. We have not had a high velocity flush since last October."

Commissioner Stephens asked, "Is the water from the plant clear?"

Mr. Davis responded, "Yes."

Commissioner Stephens asked, "Why isn't it clear at the Water Distribution Point outside the plant?"

Mr. Davis responded, "It's an old line."

Commissioner Johnson asked, "Do you think the number of problem areas will drop with pipe replacement?"

Mr. Kosin responded, "Your problems should drop, I wish there was an easy answer."

Commissioner Buzzett asked, "What part of our water source could be causing the problem? We have no flow in the Fresh Water Canal."

Mr. Davis responded, "The water leaving the plant is not the issue, the Langler Index is out of balance."

Commissioner Buzzett would like to switch the Corrosion Inhibitor Mix from 70/30 to 50/50 then have a Unilateral Flush. We also need to have a monitoring system to quantify the problem with a data base and some type of incentive until we get the construction dollars.

Commissioner Gingell asked, "Do we need to hire new personnel for Mr. Grantland?"

Commissioner Johnson would like to use our contingency fund to fix the problem. We need staff to determine the cost to get a unidirectional Flushing Program. He would like this issue to be on the next Commission Agenda.

The workshop was adjourned at 5:18 P.M.

Approved this 17th day of May 2011.


Jim Anderson, City Clerk


Mayor Magidson