



118 Lion Boulevard Springdale, UT 84767 Ph.435-772-3434

**MINUTES OF THE SECONDARY WATER ADVISORY BOARD MEETING ON  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014 AT SPRINGDALE TOWN HALL, 118 LION BLVD.  
MEETING CONVENED AT 2:10 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Brent Heaton, Board members from SCICO: Allan Staker and Mark Schraut; Board members from SpringdaleTown: Stan Smith and Mark Chambers  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Manager Rick Wixom and Town Clerk Fay Cope, recording. Citizen signed in, see attached list.

**Approval of the agenda:**

**Motion to approve the agenda by Stan Smith; seconded by Mark Chambers.**

**Chambers: Aye**

**Heaton: Aye**

**Schraut: Aye**

**Smith: Aye**

**Staker: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Action Items**

**Irrigation pipeline manhole project:** Mr. Wixom explained that while the Park was doing their water line project, the Town had the first two manholes installed and 1500 feet of pipeline cleaned. This was done before the NPS modification of the Pa'rus Trail so it was easy for Sunroc to come in and do their work.

Mr. Wixom showed pictures of the material that came out of the broken sections (attachment #1). He mentioned manholes were the cheapest and best option because it gives them a long term solution. He said 15 cubic yards of material was removed from the first two installed manholes. The plans show an additional seven manholes need to be done. This will allow pipeline access for cameraing or cleaning.

- Mr. Heaton asked what type of material came out of the pipe. Mr. Totten said there was a lot of sand on the bottom and a layer of clay around the pipe.
- Mr. Wixom said the process was very successful. It was estimated that 98% of the material came out of pipes.

Mr. Schraut asked how long the pipe has been in service and about the future maintenance schedule. Mr. Wixom answered about 30 years, and said once manholes are installed, we can run a camera through the lines every three to five years and evaluate the build-up. The cleaning schedule will depend how quickly material builds up.

Spacing of the manholes is predicated by the reach of the equipment. Equipment can reach about 800' between manholes.

The sand buildup was primarily caused by the river. There is a provision to shut off the intake when the river is flooding badly to avoid sand from entering the pipeline.

- Mr. Staker asked if there had been issues with sand before. Mr. Totten said this was the first time anyone has actually looked inside the pipes.
- Mayor Smith said build up is one issue but they thought much of the sand in the pipes is due to the river being so low this year. Sand is being sucked into the system.

Mr. Wixom said there was a lot of sand last fall due to flow issues at the pump house. We attempted to flush out with culinary water by back feeding the line.

- Mr. Totten said he put a larger valve on the flushing line. They allowed it to flush for 24 hours several times but it only gets rid of so much.
- Mr. Heaton asked about the reach of cleaning. Mr. Wixom clarified and said they can't pull material up the pipe, only down to travel with the flow of water. The first manhole was about 450' from the pump house. The second was about 850' away from the first.
- Mr. Schraut asked if there was an as-built survey done on the pipe. Mr. Wixom said 'no', the construction plan was poorly done.

Mayor Smith explained the river was so low it was bringing bottom sand into the structure. Mr. Wixom said there were also more pipeline at the intake since the NPS installed their own diversion structure. Mr. Totten theorized that cleaning the top 1500' could have changed the velocity so the water carried more sand. One possible mitigating solution to the sand would be to take a backhoe and dig a deeper hole for the water. Mr. Staker said in the last twelve years he has not seen this much sand or organic debris.

Mr. Schraut asked about the cost. Mr. Wixom explained the first two manholes cost approximately \$10,000 each; based on that, the next seven should be about \$70,000 total. Some of the remaining manholes are easier to access, others are not.

- Mr. Wixom continued and said the NPS was supportive. Plans went to their compliance meeting and they had a few questions. No environmental studies would be required because the land had already been disturbed. It would not impact natural resource ground. The issue was keeping tourists safe and dealing with traffic.
- Mr. Schraut asked if there would be some economies of scale doing the rest at the same time. Mr. Wixom said they would determine this when the project is bid. He indicated Sunroc was not the cheapest contractor however they were able to get the project done in the timeframe needed. Currently costs are estimated to be \$10,000 per manhole.
- Mr. Schraut asked how it was going to be paid for. Mr. Wixom read from the SCICO contract which addresses extraordinary costs beyond regular operation and maintenance: *"Any improvements, replacements or extraordinary system costs beyond annual operation or maintenance costs shall be the responsibility of both the Town and the Irrigation Company based on their proportionate interest in the total water right then currently owned by the Town or the Irrigation Company."*
- Mr. Wixom thought the proportional ownership of water rights was SCICO: 66%; Town: 34%. He believed this project was outside normal operation. It was noted the same pipe is also used for culinary water. The Town delivers about 60 million gallons of metered culinary a year. Another 10 million gallons are lost to leaks, breaks, flushing.
- Mr. Staker said based on the split, and an approximate cost of \$90,000 for all nine manholes, about \$60,000 of proposed expense would fall to the Water Board.
- Mr. Wixom indicated the Town was willing to prepare bids and handle the process. They would transfer money from the sewer fund to the irrigation fund to pay for the project. Then the Town and Irrigation Company can set up a repayment plan over time.

Mr. Wixom stated the contract was based around a 2014 timeframe when the note would be paid off and the transfer of the system from the Irrigation Company to the Town would be completed. The

agreement is thirty years old and we thought it was time to revisit it again. There are no specific proposals at this point.

Mr. Heaton asked if there were any other alternatives or if they were committed to cleaning the irrigation line. Mr. Wixom said they had explored using pumps to pressurize the system and flush. The buildup has happened over time whereby millions and millions of gallons of water have been run through the pipe without any noticeable change. The Town investigated a few options that were either expensive or not feasible given the PSI capacity of the pipes. Therefore money spent on the manholes was determined to be a better investment. They can be utilized for other purposes and used into the future.

The Board asked about the fee for the cleanout. Mr. Totten thought they charged \$200/hour for two days however they had not received a bill yet. Mr. Wixom said the total length of the pipe was about 7500 feet, and the first 1500 feet had been done. Mr. Totten thought the pipe could be cameraed every three years to assess the buildup.

- Mr. Heaton said manholes would provide permanent access points. Mayor Smith said they can watch and see how quickly it takes to buildup.

Mr. Wixom indicated there was a scare last fall of not having reliable water. They want to avoid that situation again, especially in summer.

Mr. Staker asked with a 30-year old pipe if there is a chance of rupture by putting in manholes. Mayor Smith said there were no problems during the installation of the first two and Mr. Totten agreed. It is a pressurized irrigation pipe (PIP).

The Board discussed next steps and what they should recommend to the Town Council. Mr. Staker said the current operating budget was about \$20,000 per year. Therefore it would take many years to pay back the expense. Mayor Smith said the debt would be paid off soon so operating costs would go down. Mr. Chambers asked if all the legal issues were complete. Mr. Wixom answered 'no'.

Mayor Smith suggested the Board use the money from the pipeline to repay the manhole project. The Town is not looking to create a hardship for the Irrigation Company.

- Mr. Heaton said they would need to get shareholder approval for this large of expenditure.
- Mr. Chambers asked what the payment was for the loan. Mr. Wixom answered \$15,540.00, so it would take about four years for them to pay back.

Mr. Staker thought the costs should be divided up differently since the Town has more ways to pay. They can increase the assessment to the shareholders to raise additional funds; however the Town gets a lot of benefit from the line.

In terms of revenue, the Board asked what the Town takes in from the culinary and irrigation water. Mayor Smith said this was an unfair question because the water revenue pays for more than just the pipeline.

Mr. Heaton said the Irrigation Company Board would need to meet to come up with a recommendation for the shareholders. He thought it might be beneficial to renegotiate the contract at the same time.

- Mr. Wixom said this project shouldn't be held up. Waiting may cause harm. The Town didn't want to run into a problem where they could not provide culinary or irrigation water. They anticipate the project can start within a few months.
- Mr. Schraut asked why the project wasn't done last winter when demand was reduced. Mr. Totten replied they did not know the severity of the problem until the Park broke the line.

Mr. Wixom said once they knew the extent of the situation, they accelerated the response. He did not think they could afford to wait until winter.

Mr. Totten said there was a storm last winter that completely plugged the pipeline. It took about a week and a half to clear enough debris from the pipe for water to flow. There is still quite a bit of material in the pipe. Another high water issue could cause even greater problems.

Mr. Staker wanted to know the possibility of renegotiating the split between the Town and the Irrigation Company. He noted this was an extraordinary situation that could not have been anticipated thirty years ago when the contract was first negotiated. Mr. Wixom answered that this would be a question for the Town Council and the rest of the Water Board. Up to this point expenses have been normal operation and expenses.

Mr. Staker referenced drawings. He noted the sections where the water comes out of the river and where it goes into the pump house. The Board wanted to schedule a tour to become more educated.

Mr. Chambers read from paragraph 10 of the contract which states "*any improvements, replacements or extraordinary system costs beyond the annual operation and maintenance*". He thought this project was a replacement or improvement; therefore the split of costs didn't need to be renegotiated.

Mr. Staker noted the money to pay for the project comes from the people. Whether expenses are paid by the Town or the Irrigation Company, it is essentially the same source.

When the contract was originally written the Town intended to have the first right of refusal when irrigation shares were sold. By this time the Town thought they would own the majority of the water shares but it currently only owns 24-1/2 shares. The program to purchase them was not put into place. The Town never actively went after shares until about seven years ago.

- According to Ms. Cope the original thought was that the shares would become more and more expensive as the cost of operating the system became more costly. People would let go of their excess shares because they would become too costly to maintain. Therefore the Town had first right of refusal to purchase them.
- Mr. Chambers also noted there was an assumption that with development, irrigation shares would be converted to culinary use. This didn't happen as quickly as we thought.

Mr. Staker did some quick math and noted that with 400 shares outstanding, the cost to each would be approximately \$150.00. Mr. Schraut thought raising the annual assessment was not necessary if the Town was willing to finance.

Mr. Heaton recommended the Irrigation Board meet to discuss and then get back to the Town within a week.

**Irrigation schedule and compliance:** Mr. Totten said there were abusers every year that watered out-of-turn despite us making them aware of the schedule. There is nothing written as far as enforcement goes, but it was believed at one point the Irrigation Board had a "three strikes" resolution.

Mayor Smith said the schedule had been devised for several reasons. The irrigation users were sucking so much water none made it to the reservoir. Also, there were times when the heavy users took so much water there wasn't enough for anyone else.

It was suggested when the Town knows it is going to shut off the system, they should send out an email or put notification in the newsletter. The Town agreed to be more diligent about communicating this information.

Mr. Heaton read a SCICO resolution from July 21, 2005: *"Any user when found using irrigation water out-of-turn the following policy will be enforced. 1) The first time a secondary water user is found using water out-of-turn a warning notice will be issued in writing. Those authorized to issue this warning are any member of the SWAB Board, the Springdale Town Staff, or any member of the Springdale Consolidated Irrigation Board. The second out-of-turn violation will result in the water being turned off. 2) A meeting between the second time violator and at least three members of the SWAB Board will be required before the water can be turned on again. 3) With the recommendation of the SWAB members the water can be turned on again."* Three SWAB members constitute a quorum.

Mayor Smith said instead of dancing around the issue they should hit it straight on. The problem has been with The Hampton Inn watering every day. Mr. Totten goes down there every day to discuss the situation, but the cycle repeats itself. We are looking for direction from the Irrigation Company on what to do next.

Mr. Heaton said the way the resolution is written, if you have made attempts to work with the offender, send a notification, then the Board will take action. The Town requested a copy of the Irrigation Board resolution (attachment #2).

The Town will draft a violation letter. Mr. Heaton said that the offender has ignored the verbal warning so it was time for a written warning. If the violation continues the water will be turned off.

Mr. Heaton read from the minutes of the July meeting which stated, *"The policy for dealing with shareholders out-of-turn was discussed. Dale Harris wrote in saying he felt the initial suggestion of one warning was a little too harsh. It was decided that the first infraction should receive a verbal warning, the second infraction would receive a written warning, and the third infraction the shareholders water would be turned off."*

Everyone agreed this is the policy they would follow.

### **Discussion/Information Items**

**Town/Irrigation Company contract:** Mayor Smith asked if they wanted to renegotiate. Mr. Heaton suggested they take time to read and determine how it should be restructured. The process may take time since the shareholders need to be involved.

Mr. Heaton asked if any of the audience members had discussion items. Bill Weyher said since Mr. Totten and four members of the Irrigation Board were in attendance, they should decide on a meeting date.

Matt Rayner asked if he could see a copy of the contract. Ms. Cope indicated she would get him one. Mr. Rayner asked if there was a specific reason the contract was on the agenda. Mr. Wixom indicated all the things the original contract sought to accomplish had been done; the loans have been paid off; the system had been transferred to the Town. There was not a termination provision, so the two parties thought they should look at the contract again and see if it should be updated.

Dan Mabbutt asked if the cost sharing terms were part of the contract. Mr. Wixom answered 'yes'. With that, Mr. Mabbutt suggested the cost sharing portion of the contract was a continuing element

irrespective of whether the loans had been paid or the system had been transferred. Therefore he felt this was the main reason for keeping the current contract.

**Motion to adjourn made by Allan Staker; seconded by Mark Schraut.**

**Chambers: Aye**

**Heaton: Aye**

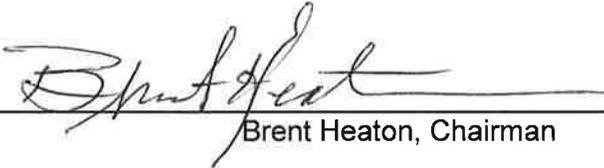
**Schraut: Aye**

**Smith: Aye**

**Staker: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Transcribed and attested by:   
Darci Carlson, Springdale Town Clerk

Approved by:   
Brent Heaton, Chairman



TOWN OF SPRINGDALE

PO Box 187 118 Lion Blvd Springdale UT 84767

ATTENDANCE RECORD
Please sign

Meeting of SWATS on 5/20/14

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Form with 15 rows for name and email input. Handwritten entries include: Matt Rayner, Ryan Abbott, R. Totten, Bill Weyher.