



Meeting Minutes January 21, 2025

(1) **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting of the Centerton Waterworks & Sewer Commission called to order by Commissioner Melvin Coffelt. **Roll Call** – Commissioners present: Robert Anderson, Bob Casteel, Melvin Coffelt, TJ Wells, Michelle Haverkamp. Centerton Utilities present: Malcolm Attwood, Chad Klingler, John Daniels, Mary Perkins and Thresia Limeberg. Professional Services: Morgan Doughty, Atty., Tim Mayes and Jeff Dehnhardt of ESI. City of Centerton present: Mayor Bill Edwards, Kayla Knight and Lorene Burns.

(2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

(3) **Introduction of New Commissioner** – Commissioner Anderson introduced TJ Wells as the new Commissioner that was approved upon his recommendation to City Council. He replaces Josh Hagan after his appointment to the City Council.

(4) **Approval of Consent Agenda** – Commissioner Coffelt introduced the minutes of Centerton Utilities from December 17, 2024, and asked if anyone had questions or concerns. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Casteel seconded the motion. No members were opposed, and the motion was carried.

(5) **Old Business**

a. **Attorney report – Harrington Miller Law Firm presented by Morgan Doughty** – Nothing new to report.

b. **Project Updates – Engineering Services Inc., presented by Jeff Denhardt -**

i. **Hwy 102 Water Tower -**

Line work – Timco Construction is continuing to work on the pressure reducing vaults. They are 80% complete with the pressure reducing vault installation. The project is 93% complete with contract cost and 88% contract time.

Tank – Contractor is continuing to work on the steel portion of the tank, they are welding the bowl. Once fully welded they will raise it up and place it on the column. They will continue with the welding for about another two months. Concurrently working on installation of some yard piping on site. 43% of contract value and 64% completion of contract time. Still looking at substantial completion of December 2025.

ii. **Hwy 102 widening/relocation of utilities** – Waiting to hear from the Health Department with their comments. Once we receive their comments we can proceed with the relocation project.

iii. **McKissic Swale Sewer Main Repair** – Pre-construction meeting with First Star Construction was held on Friday Jan. 17th; the contractor is ready to get started immediately. We issued a notice to proceed. It is a 30-day contract, anticipated final completion date is March 21st.

iv. **Greenhouse Lift Station Improvements** – We have received comments from the Health Department. We are working to address those comments so we can resubmit to the Health Department within the next 30 days. Since the project calls for the installation of larger pumps, in light of the letter we received from the Health Department that states no more projects that add to the flow to the Decatur plant it may not receive approval unless further action is developed for the additional ways to treat our sanitary sewer.



v. **Sanitary Sewer – Connection Options** – We are working on several options to connect through other systems to help until the Decatur plant is re-rated for a higher capacity or the facility is upgraded through capital improvements. We received notice from the Health Department on Dec. 19th about limitations on approval of projects moving forward. We contacted the city of Bentonville to discuss the potential of connecting back to their system, spoke with Mike Bender and Preston Newbill and presented the proposal, they were going to discuss with the Bentonville Mayor and get back with them after the beginning of the year. We have also spoken with NACA to explain we would like to discuss a connection to their plant. Any connection to Bentonville or NACA would require construction for a connection. The existing connection that we once used is not an option with the City of Bentonville, it connects to their north plant, and they are not able to take on additional flow at that point. Mayor Bob Tharp of Decatur gave an update on the upgrade to the treatment plant. He stated that they received a preliminary approval letter from ADEQ that was published in the paper last week. After 30 days from the publication, ADEQ will then be able review any comments they have received. After that review he will be able to obtain a permit to start construction. He expects to begin early February and be ready to take on additional flow in about one year.

Commissioner Casteel pointed out the January 2nd letter from Arkansas Department of Health states that “once plans and specifications for improvements to the Decatur Wastewater Treatment plant are approved by this office, plans for projects that will provide additional flow to the treatment plant may be reviewed and approved for concurrent construction”.

c. **Director’s Report – presented by Malcolm Attwood -**

i. **Project Planning Worksheet (attached):** Utility Director Malcolm Attwood reported that the updated Project Planning Department’s worksheet is included in the Commission’s report.

ii. **Customer Service & Field Ops Reports:**

Customer Service - Mary Perkins reported that the Kaisers are in default in their payment arrangement and has contacted the Police Department and an affidavit has been submitted to their office.

Commissioner Anderson stated we may have to take legal action after we speak to the Police Department.

Field Ops - Red Klingler reported the exterior level indicator for the standpipe has been repaired but there were issues with damage to the exterior coating, they will be back to correct the issue. Transfer switch for the Hwy 72, still waiting on the parts, we can still work it manually. Scada/LEC parts have been ordered and should start to be installed in February.

(6) New Business:

a. **New Water Rates** – Director Attwood reported the new water rates were adopted unanimously by City Council in their last meeting.

b. **Sanitary Sewer Rates** – Robert Anderson made a motion to not increase the sanitary sewer rates for the year. Commissioner Haverkamp 2nd motion, all in favor.

c. **Service Line Replacement Contract** – Director Attwood asked if the Commission would like to proceed with the contract that was presented in the last meeting, the Commission said to move forward with the contract.

d. **ADH – Decatur Letter** – The latest comment letter is included in their packets

e. **February ADH Meeting** – Director Attwood stated that himself and ESI engineers Jeff Denhardt and Tim Mays will be going to Little Rock on Feb 5th to meet with ADH and there will be other entity’s public works directors as well as their consultants that will attend this meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to present the ADH with the sewer monitoring data we have collected to see if they will accept those numbers to use in their calculations for sewer capacity.



- f. **Appurtenances Per Acre**_- Field Operations Red Klingler reported that back in 2000 we had 4.2 appurtenances per acre which we had to maintain. Currently we are at 9.8 per acre which is in part to the increase in multifamily homes. The change in fire code last Feb. now requires builders to install a 1" meter for domestic service and fire protection when certain conditions are met. This presents an increase in the cost versus the standard 5/8" meter and we should take that in consideration when evaluating our cost for maintenance for our system (valves, hydrants etc.).
- g. **Financial Advisor RFQ**_- Commissioner Anderson stated that while we are satisfied with our current financial advisor, it has been several years since we issued a request for proposals from various financial firms to see what offers we receive. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to submit a request for proposals. Commissioner Casteel 2nd the motion, all in favor.
- h. **2025 Summer Water Supply**_- Field Operations Red Klingler reported that according to Benton Washington Regional Public Water Authority they supply about 19.6 MG per day at their peak last summer. They have ordered pumps to upgrade their operation, but they won't be received until later this year. Commissioner Anderson said we need to review our current conservation plan.

Commissioner Anderson then made a motion to request the Commission to approve Commissioner Coffelt's nomination to the mayor for his reappointment. Commissioner Casteel 2nd the motion. All in favor.

(7) **Resolutions** - None

(8) **Public Comments** - Commissioner Coffelt asked the attendees if there were any questions. None.

(9) **Announcements** - None

(10) **Adjournment** -. With no further business, Commissioner Anderson made a motion adjourn, Commissioner Haverkamp 2nd the motion, all in favor and the meeting was adjourned.