

**Denton Utility Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**

July 21, 2021  
4:00PM

- I. Mr. Getchell called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM and thanked all that were in attendance.
- II. Those in attendance were Dallas Lister, Scott Getchell, Albert McCullough, Adam Jones, Leroy Woomer, Mark Chandler, Phil Clark and Guest, Karen Monteith, Clerk Treasurer for the Town of Denton.
- III. On motion by Mr. McCullough and Second by Mr. Getchell the minutes for the meeting from May 05, 2021 were unanimously approved.
- IV. Open Issues
  - a. **Water Main Replacement Project** – It was reported that the town is working on getting the application to the state. Once completed the state can turn around approval in 5 days. Also, the current contractor is stating that there is now a variance in the pricing with an increase by 40%. The town has submitted for increased funding based on the variance and is waiting on MDE approval for the grant funding. Looking at 60-90 days turnaround.
  - b. **Water & Sewer Budgets** – Mrs. Monteith went over the budgets for Water and Sewer and explained the actual for 2020-2021 vs. budgeted for 2021-2022 with the expectation to receive some ARP monies which will help with some infrastructure expenses that were laid out in the budget. It was also noted that there were some additional anticipated income and expenses for 2021. Upon motion by Mr. Getchell and a Second by Mr. McCullough it was carried to approve as presented. It was also noted by Mrs. Monteith a proposal to restructure some debt and reduce interest rate to 2.30% fixed for 30 years which was a savings of almost 2% annually. There was a motion by Mr. Getchell and a second by Mr. McCullough and the motion carried.
  - c. **WWTP Sludge Management Project** – Mr. Chandler updated the commission that the project is still in the conceptualization stage. Mr. Mulrine has reached out to MDE to make sure plan was still ok from a

funding standpoint. There was however, some additional grant money that was to be released from MDE and we applied for \$35-40k for study and it was turned down. Currently, the WWTP is experiencing a backup with sludge. Mr. Chandler did take out 2 beds and the pricing to have it removed and disposed of was more than it has ever been before. The purpose of the study was to look at different options that we can do to help with the management of the sludge. Land fill fees are going up which is increasing the costs of sludge management. This is not an immediate issue but it is one that needs to be on our minds as costs continue to rise and the management of the sludge is labor and cost intensive.

- d. **Capital Improvement Plan** – No new updates on the capital improvement plan. Please refer to minutes from May 05, 2021 for details.
- e. **AquaCon** – It was expressed that currently AquaCon is working on their Federalsburg location and that is their primary concern right now. We will update with new information as it is given.
- f. **Standards & Specifications for Public Works Construction** – The 2021 revisions have been completed and submitted to the Town and UC by GMB. Additional updates may be completed in 2022.
- g. **Other Open Issues** – No other open issues

#### V. New Business

- a. **Water/Sewer Allocation Fees** – Mr. Clark provided an email to discuss with the commission the current Water/Sewer allocation fee structure. It was presented to the commission a change in distance in connection of water/sewer line from 100ft to 300ft for vacant lots. Currently the requirement is if you are within 100ft of a connection you must connect. Upon review of the current ordinance regulations by AquaLaw they suggest conforming to the current occupied lot connection distance requirement to keep continuity in the ordinances. The council recommends that the Town adopts the suggestion and move from 100ft to 300ft for vacant lots. However, the connection fee would be grandfathered for current ownership and would only take place when the property ownership is transferred. Motion by Mr. McCullough, Second by Mr. Getchell, Motion carried.
- b. **Other New Business**

- i. Copies of town maps were distributed to the Commission for a plan on where/how to spend the ARP money. The town is looking to bring additional areas online with water and sewer. The Commission is to review the maps and understand which properties that the town is looking to bring online. The proposed areas are within town limits. Once monies are received, the town will need to prioritize projects and work with the Commission to review the outlined projects.
- ii. The subject of water meter replacement cost was brought to the table. Currently, there are meter replacement fees built into the quarterly bill to pay for the replacement of the meters. The current billing was hoping to bill over the course of approximately 10 years enough to replace old meters. This was at a price point of about \$160 per meter, the current meters are now \$520 - \$440 each which is due to rising costs. The discussion was had about raising quarterly costs to help offset the increase in costs for the meter replacement. Commission recommends \$6/quarter for this year and then look at costs next year for amendment. \$600 for new homes. Motion by Al, Second by Leroy, motion carried.

## VI. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM on motion by Mr. McCullough and Second by Mr. Woomeer. The next meeting will be scheduled by Mr. Getchell with the Commission. It is planned to be an in person meeting with a virtual meeting option.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Jones, Secretary