

MINUTES
CITY OF KEY COLONY BEACH CITY COMMISSION
EMERGENCY MEETING – SEWER PLANT REPAIRS
Monday, January 11, 2010 1:30 p.m. City Hall Conference Room

The Emergency Meeting of the Key Colony Beach City Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Mayor Sutton. *Present were:* Mayor Ron Sutton, Vice-Mayor Geraldine Zahn, Commissioner Jeff Vorick, and Commissioner Mary Schmidt. *Excused:* Commissioner Seneca “Tucker” DeGraw. *Also Present:* Utility Board Chair Glenda Keach and Board Members: Steve Flood, John Grimes, Joe Schmidt, and Tom Moore; Sewer Plant Operator David Evans, Building Official Edward Borysiewicz, Utility Board Clerk Pat Britske, and City Clerk Vickie Bollinger. Public: 0

Mayor Sutton stated the emergency meeting of the city commission was called to update the city commission on recent problems at the sewer plant and to discuss what action is to be taken to resolve the problems. He briefly described the problems and the events of the past week:

There are two storage tanks at the plant. The pump near the bottom of one of the storage tanks stopped working. The pump is lowered/raised from the tank using the crane. However, for some reason the pump got stuck and could not be lifted out. It was necessary to drain the tank to find the problem and get the pump replaced. Every effort was made to drain the tank using city resources by pumping sludge to the second tank, digester, drying beds, and shutting off lift stations. When that did not work, the sludge was pumped from the tank with the broken pump into trucks and taken to Homestead and dumped. Unfortunately, another problem developed – a gate between the two tanks did not seal properly and the emptied tank refilled.

Mayor Sutton stated the problem now is to get the tank emptied and the pump fixed. It may be necessary to turn off the sewer system, drain both tanks and fix the pump and the leaking gate. The cost of draining the tank last week was \$15,400. Mayor Sutton stated that he had called all commissioners last Friday to explain and all agreed that the expenditure must be made to fix the pump. Other options are being explored to find the fastest, least costly way to complete the repairs.

City Commissioners, Utility Board members, Building Official Borysiewicz and Plant Manager David Evans discussed:

- Option to truck sludge to City of Marathon for disposal. Unfortunately, Marathon would have to pay to have the sludge hauled away once it was dried – a cost Marathon is understandably not able to absorb.
- Turning the system off and draining both tanks at an estimated cost of \$22,000 just to haul the sludge. The collection system could contain the inflows for a maximum of 24 hours. More time may be needed just to pump out the tanks. Truck drivers are only allowed to drive for a limited number of hours each day, so more trucks/drivers may be needed to complete this in 24 hours.
- Dewatering the sludge may be possible and then the cost to haul the dried sludge would be much less. Synagro has a dewatering truck located in Sarasota. The cost to bring the truck to the city then use it was not known. It may be possible to stockpile the dried sludge and put it in a dumpster for disposal. The City of Marathon may have a dewatering truck that we could use for a fee; and they may take the water from the dewatering process that does not have sludge. The contents of the storage tanks are about 80% water. It would be cheaper to haul the water to

Marathon and take much less time than taking it to Homestead. This would allow the inflow to the plant and continue operations. If the City of Marathon was willing to take the water, an estimated cost is needed.

- Turning off water supply to the city, if only on a rotating limited basis, is not feasible. The city can ask citizens to voluntarily conserve water and therefore reduce inflow to the plant. Most people would be willing to cooperate for a couple of days.
- The real issue is getting to the pump so that it can be repaired or replaced.
- The plant is still working on one side. If that side stops working then the plant is dead and cannot be used. The problem with the pump began on January 4.

Mayor Sutton said there seems to be two options: drain both tanks and haul it to Homestead or use a dewatering truck. The questions are: is a dewatering truck available and at what cost; and will Marathon take the water and at what cost? Also, is there enough time to get all the answers to the questions or should a decision be made today?

Discussion continued regarding the options, time available and how much time was needed for each option, costs, number of trucks, where to haul water and sludge, need to move forward, and authorizing the city administrator to make a decision when the information becomes available. Commissioners agreed that the costs for this repair could reach \$100,000 from draining the tanks, hauling sludge, dewatering, repairs to the pump and gate, overtime payments, etc.

Mayor Sutton stated that last week he believed the solution had been found when he authorized the tank to be emptied. He called the commissioners and received their agreement that the decision to drain the tank was the appropriate one. However, with the added problem of the leaking gate and additional expenditures that are required, he wanted the input of the other commissioners and the Utility Board. He stated it was important to have the full support of the commission on whatever action will have to be taken.

Commissioners expressed support for the city administrator for decisions made last week and that he should get as much information as possible and make the decision on how to proceed. Commissioners discussed the costs and determined there was money in reserve to pay for the repairs.

Motion – Moved by Commissioner Vorick, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, to authorize the city administrator to work with Synago to find the best method to repair the pump and gate in the storage tank at the sewer plant and to expend an amount not to exceed \$100,000. Roll Call Vote: Unanimous approval.

Mayor Sutton thanked everyone for their support and attendance and said he would keep them all informed over the next few days. Commissioners and Utility Board members all agreed to help spread the word to conserve water to minimize the flow to the plant. Plant Operator Evans will continue to work with the City of Marathon and Synago to get estimated costs for each option.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Vickie L. Bollinger, City Clerk