



UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 13, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ben Levie called the regular meeting of the Utility Board to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Farside Room at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, WA.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Ben Levie, Vice Chair, Kwan Wong, Tom DeBoer, Steve Milton, Susan Kaltenbach, Tim O'Connell, and Wendy Weiker were present.

City Staff: Glenn Boettcher, Maintenance Director, Francie Lake, Deputy Finance Director, Terry Smith, Maintenance and Operations Utility Manager, Anne Tonella-Howe, Assistant City Engineer and Asea Sandine, Recording Secretary were also present.

MINUTES:

O'Connell moved to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2014 meeting. Milton seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the minutes.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Boil Water Advisory

Melinda Freidman, P.E. with Confluence Engineering Group was present to provide the Board with an update regarding the Microbial Occurrence and Distribution System Best Practices Evaluation she conducted. She outlined the objectives were to review Mercer Island's routine operations and maintenance and water quality practices, identify potential causes and risk factors for the E.coli event, and develop recommendations to fill data gaps and minimize risk of future events. Friedman advised that she evaluated source water pathways, distribution system pathways, sampling/analytical pathways and purposeful contamination pathways. Friedman concluded that the E.coli event appeared to be a transitory event in that no "smoking gun" was identified, City staff is knowledgeable and eager to do their best practices to protect public health, there is no evidence of short-cuts, and that short-comings are due to lack of resources and funding relative to the demands of an aging distribution system. Friedman recommended the following areas of improvement to reduce contamination risks: purge the system of initial contamination and minimize future risk of contamination (booster disinfection and enhanced main cleaning), Enhance Water Quality Management (develop and implement a water quality surveillance monitoring program), resource availability (additional resources are clearly needed), and more complete written documentation and data management.

2015-16 Preliminary Water Rate Update

Lake was present to update the Board regarding the additional rate resources needed for the Boil Water Advisory response. At the October rate discussion, staff added a \$250,000.00 place holder in the budget. Lake shared that Tonella-Howe had conducted a cost analysis and based on her findings staff recommends an increase to \$550,000.00 for response efforts. Some of the drivers behind the increase include the following: upgrade/modification of existing air-vac's, installation of additional sampling stations, and a request for increased staffing. The Board reached consensus to support staffs new rate scenario D.

Cedar Grove

Janet Pritchard, Municipal Relations Manager of Republic Services, and Susan Thoman, Media Relations of Cedar Grove, were present to share Cedar Grove's case in support of the previously requested rate increase of \$0.40 per household (\$5.00 per year). The Board reached consensus in recommending a \$0.40 increase per household.

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting is January 9, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:00 p.m.

Asea Sandine
Recording Secretary