

**OSKALOOSA WATER BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
WITH OSKALOOSA CITY COUNCIL
8/20/12**

Members Present:

Joe Ryan
Pete Settimi
Errin Keltner

Others Present:

Chad Coon
Sheryl Tomlinson

The City Council members present were Tom Walling, Aaron VerSteeg, Scottie Moore, Tom Jiminez, Doug Yates, Joe Caligiuri, Jason Van Zetten, and Mayor David Krutzfeldt. City Manager Mike Schrock, City Attorney Dave Dixon, and City Clerk Amy Miller were also present.

Meeting was called to order at 5:16 PM by Mayor Krutzfeldt.

Water Board member Pete Settimi motioned to open the meeting for the Water Department. It was seconded by Joe Ryan. 5:16 PM.

1. Discussion started between Council members regarding the possible ballot language for the 2012 general election. There were several opinions shared between Council members. Some reported that there was a majority of the public that felt the need for the City Council to slow down on the ballot language for moving from 3 members to 5 members. While other Council members asked what would be gained by dragging the process out, and they felt the Council should just move ahead and put the language on the ballot and let the public decide. There was also discussion that if the Council did move ahead with a public referendum on the issue and then came back later and wanted to dissolve the Board of Trustees, that the public would question the motives of the City Council. Several Council members stated that they had heard from the public on this issue and that there was no support for dissolving the Water Board. The Council then asked Pete Settimi what he thought about moving forward with the decision to go from a 3 member Board to a 5 member Board. Pete said that he was not against the idea, but then stated that the City would need to find good qualified people to be on the Board of Trustees. There was then a comment from a Council member that it should just be a Council action and not a public vote. The following discussion centered around the unintended consequences of that action, namely the "calling" of the loans that the Water Department now has for

the 2008 Water Improvement Project. One Council member asked if the Board could bring the recommendation to the City Council to move from 3 to 5 members. That way it would be better received from the public. There was no comment from the Board on that matter. There was then a straw poll taken by the Mayor to see who wanted to see language put on the ballot this year. Those wanting to wait were: Tom Walling, Tom Jiminez, Doug Yates, Joe Caligiuri, and Jason Van Zetten. Those wanting to move forward were: Aaron Ver Steeg and Scottie Moore. The Mayor moved on to agenda item number 3.

2. The next agenda item was to discuss methods to improve and enhance communication, information sharing and planning between the City Council and the Board of Trustees. There were a few items talked about during this part of the meeting. One of those items was the money spent on meters and the current water loss issue. There was a question asked regarding what the Water Department wanted to see in terms of an acceptable water loss number. Chad commented that realistically he thought 15% would be acceptable. There was then a question about what the Water Department wanted to see in the way of reduction in water loss with the installation of new meters. Chad said that he hoped to be able to drop the unaccounted water to 20% with the new meters. He said this would also increase the Department's revenue as well as increase the City's revenue. One Council member asked if the Water Department could put together a list of 3-5 goals to work on. Chad answered that it would be possible. Chad then talked to the Council about the communication between the two entities. He went on to say that communication is a two way street, and that lately it felt like the fingers were all pointing at the Water Department as being the ones lacking in communication. Chad was asked for some specific examples and went on to talk about the recent purchase of the new shop and that the Council's liaison was present for two full meetings and the start of the third and that the Board thought that information would be shared between the liaison and the rest of the Council. Chad said that he didn't feel that the Board was trying to hide anything during this time, but when the next City Council meeting rolled around it was evident that the information relating to the purchase had not been shared with the rest of the Council. Chad then went on to say that if the Council had a question or felt they needed to say something to the Water Department, to go ahead and say it, to feel free to communicate with, and ask questions of, the Board and its employees. The Mayor then closed the meeting saying that he hoped looking at the future there may be opportunities found for the sharing of resources between the City and the Water Department. The Mayor closed the meeting at 6:24 PM.

There being no further items to discuss, it was moved by Joe Ryan and second by Pete Settimi to adjourn.

ATTEST

Meeting Adjourned 6:24 PM

Joe Ryan – Chairman

Pete Settimi – Secretary