

E&O Special Committee Meeting on O&M Budget

June 16, 2010

Present:

Committee Members: Ike Herrick, Frank Black, Ramzi Deeb, Don Walden, Jacob Angelo

Staff: Richard Eason, John Hastings, Roger Fry, Margaret Cathey, Karri Gibson

Agenda: 2011 Proposed O&M Capital Expenditure Budget (See Attachment I)

This was the only item addressed at the meeting. The committee action taken for each line item on the budget is explained below.

Item 1: Billing Computer (\$2500) - approved

The computer is over 5 years old and is slow.

Item 2: Billing Software (\$4100) - approved

The current AVR Software used to perform the District daily operations needs to be upgraded to the latest version to be compatible with the new computer, server and operating system.

Item 3: New Server & Operation System (\$7500) - approved

The current server is becoming overloaded and the network operating system is Windows 2000. We need more capacity to serve the future needs of the District, and ensure compatibility with Items 1 and 2 above.

Item 4: New Telephone System for DO (\$8300) - approved

The new telephone system will cable together all eleven telephones in the District office building. The current system is 15 years old and obsolete. It will provide a high quality telecommunications system for both voice and data to provide more mobility and flexibility to the employees. It was in the budget last year but new meter-reader handhelds were substituted, so it did not get implemented.

Item 5: Chlorine Gas Feed System (\$26,000) – approved

The ten year old chlorine gas feed system is at the end of its normal service life and must be replaced to ensure the safety of the operating personnel and the surrounding community as well as insure proper disinfection of the water. Many repairs have been made over the years to keep the system in service, but the integrity of the system has deteriorated to a point where safety is now a concern. The new system (two vacuum regulators, one automatic switchover, five rotometers, four modulating valves and five ejectors) should be implemented as soon as possible.

Item 6: Spare SCADA Radio (\$2500) – approved

This radio employs a telecommunication which actuates a valve remotely that cycles E-5 tank between level of near full and near empty. It is a two way communication with the tank which is uniquely different from all the other radios which have only one way telecommunication with their respective valves. All other radios have a spare except this one.

Items 7 and 8: Lift Station Radios – (\$16,000) – approved

A program is in place to get rid of the analog lines at the lift stations which are costing \$1250/month (check this figure I think it is too high). Five stations have already been converted to radio communications. Nine more stations have been identified for which radios are needed to complete the project.

Item 9: Reprogram Yaupon Pump Station – (\$7000) – approved

The 503 processor which operates a sophisticated pump skid has experienced failures due to software problems which are difficult to troubleshoot due to its proprietary program provided by the equipment manufacturer installed in 1995. This pump skid controls the entire wastewater reuse system from which a lot of water is sold. The 503 processor will be eliminated and the existing 505 processor reprogrammed to operate the yaupon pump station more efficiently.

Item 10: L-1 SCADA Upgrade – (\$13,200) – approved

Lift station 10 controls half the flow from S-5 plant. It needs a processor, data-line radio and antenna/base to handle the various flows and alarms at the station. Flow meters measure three individual flows into the station and one meter measures flow leaving the station. This upgrade will allow data gathering to SCADA and make the Lift station more efficient.

Item 11: Emergency Software – (\$10,700/year) – withdrawn after discussion

This software is being considered as an immediate response information system designed to notify customers of District incidents and/or emergencies that affect their utility water/wastewater usage. The current notification system is done manually with signs and tags on customer's physical addresses. This is an annual cost to the utility customer of \$2.25/user. The project was deferred for further study, and will be re-evaluated when the new computer/software/server systems (Items 1,2,3) are in place.

Item 12: Three Ford F-150's (\$50,000) – withdrawn after discussion

The vehicles in use now have less than 60,000 miles (with one exception, 83,000 miles) and are still in good physical and mechanical condition. The goal of having a 6 year old fleet has been extended another year and will be re-evaluated again for 2012. No new vehicles will be purchased in 2011.

The grand total approved capital budget for 2011 is \$87,100.

Respectively submitted,

Jacob Angelo