

Franklinton Board of Commissioners
Dam Workshop
August 25, 2010

The workshop was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Those present were Mayor Elic A. Senter, Commissioners John Allers, Al Barbour, Art Wright and Joseph Cutchins, Jr., Town Manager Larry Carver and Assistant Town Clerk Wendy Gilliam. Commissioner Anita Fuller was absent. Mayor Senter turned the meeting over to Commissioner Cutchins, citing his need to leave due to personal reasons.

The purpose of this workshop was to present the Board with information regarding the construction and financing options for raising and repairing the dam at the upper reservoir.

Mr. Carver handed out worksheets detailing the project cost comparison for raising the dam 4-feet or 8-feet and the effect each would have on the current water rate. Mr. Carver proposed that the 4-foot option would raise the existing water rate from \$5.75 per thousand gallons to \$6.61 a \$0.87 per thousand gallon increase and the 8-foot option would raise the rate to \$6.98 a \$1.23 per thousand gallon increase.

Mr. Carver stated that he had also received inquiries about how much it would cost if the Town closed its water plant and purchased water from Franklin County. He stated that his estimate came in at approximately \$19.35 per thousand gallons, which included making up for lost revenue of water sales to Franklin County.

The final option presented was that the Board does nothing at the present time. However, Mr. Carver cautioned the Board that the Town could get into a situation where they were unable to expand development due to lack of ability to provide large developments with adequate water.

The Board discussed several technical issues regarding sedimentation dams, silt removal, water capacity and dam safety.

Due to the fact that the current rate structure does not qualify the Town for grant monies and the recent rate increases approved by the Board, Commissioner Wright stated that he did not think the Board should proceed with this project.

Mr. Carver pointed out that the Board also need to direct the engineers on whether to complete the PRE assessment, because regardless of their decision regarding the dam project at this time this report would be need to qualify the Town for funding at a later date. He also pointed out that this study had already been budgeted and paid for.

Commissioner Barbour stated that he would like to see the PRE completed, but that he was uncomfortable making a decision to increase rates again without input from our citizens.

Commissioner Allers stated he would like to see the PRE completed however he thought the Town should wait on conducting an environmental assessment.

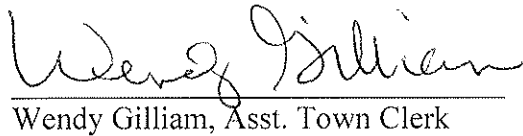
Mr. Mike Aquesta, P.E., with O'Brien and Gere, the engineering firm contracted to conduct the Town's PRE, suggested that the Town could have a referendum allowing citizens to vote on allowing the Town to issue revenue bonds to conduct this project.

The Board directed Mr. Carver to check with the Board of Elections regarding the cost and possibility of including a bond referendum on the ballot of the next scheduled election and to have the PRE completed.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Commissioner Joseph Cutchins, Jr.


Wendy Gilliam, Asst. Town Clerk