



Town of Belleair

901 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Belleair, FL 33756

Meeting Minutes Special Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

6:00 PM

Town Hall

Town Commission - R.O. Discussion II

Zoom Webinar ID: 828 9585 5004

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM with Deputy Mayor Rettstatt presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMISSIONER ROLL CALL

- Present** 4 - Deputy Mayor Karla Rettstatt, Commissioner Michael Wilkinson, Commissioner Tom Shelly, and Commissioner Tom Kurey
- Absent** 1 - Mayor Gary H. Katica

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None to be heard

GENERAL AGENDA

[20-0274](#)

Discussion of Draft Reverse Osmosis Preliminary Engineering Report and Water Rate Study

JP Murphy-Town Manager-stated this is the second public presentation; town is facing two options, converting to RO or becoming a customer of Pinellas County; discussed where residents could find the full reports and materials. Provided overview of current water system; town facing long term water supply concerns, total dissolved solids (TDS) increasing; secondary standards established by EPA.

Phil Locke-McKim and Creed, Engineer-discussed regulations and water quality; plant needs to be online by 2024 or will be exceeding drinking water standards; discussed the preliminary engineering report and process; summarized well evaluations, groundwater supply needs, proposed RO plant, pilot testing, staffing needs; filtration process reviewed.

Mr. Locke continued his presentation discussing phased implementation versus all at once conversion; cost summary and annual operating and maintenance costs; preliminary recommendations.

Nick Smith-Raftelis, Rate Study Consultant-presented financial forecast for both phased and all at once approach; rate study assumptions relating to minimal customer growth, operating expenses, assumes issuance of two low-interest state revolving fund (SRF) loans ; preliminary results related to rate increases; comparison chart of rates of other municipalities, town below average; presented rate comparisons specifically between

town and Pinellas County to show projected rates/customer bill; available for questions.

Mr. Murphy showed an example of bill; presented comparison of solutions; outlined benefits and challenges of reverse osmosis; discussed Belleair specific customer service items such as automatic meter readers, monthly billing; deep injection well and other additional wells are required, RO is capially intensive; increased regulatory and permitting concerns; maintain local control.

Mr. Murphy continued presentation discussing benefits and challenges of Pinellas County; interconnect is already in place, simple transition; lower rates through study period; various well sources; system transfer will require payment to PC to transition; no longer serviced by town; accelerated galvanized pipe replacement within 5 years; plant demo costs; employee layoffs.

Jim White-resident, Infrastructure Board member-commented on importance of maintaining good water quality; spoke on average RPD water usage; maintaining local control of resources; in favor of RO system.

Dr. Shagart-resident-commented on importance of controlling water supply; questioned if cost of desalination plant was considered; longevity of RO plant.

Mr. Murphy spoke on 20-30 year system design; water quality in well field over time will be a driver.

Mr. Locke commented on desalination plant for town is not feasible; cost would be much higher; projections beyond 20-years is challenging to get accurate.

Mr. Murphy questioned chlorides and TDs of Town vs Clearwater; Mr. Locke addressed.

Gayle Grady-resident, Infrastructure Board member-spoke on infrastructure projects throughout Town; concerns with financial analysis and debt.

Mr. Murphy read online chat question; anonymous attendee asked if ability to buy Pinellas County water and treat at our plant, phased approach, why 2024; bid used for cost estimates.

Mr. Murphy provided answers; Mr. Locke stated existing plant is in condition that it's not feasible to retreat water; regarding chemicals-sodium hydroxide, chlorine and ammonia, regarding 2024-as certain as projections are accurate; doesn't believe there are other factors that could push that out; similar facility builds used costs estimates.

Mr. Murphy noted cost estimates are engineer best guess, not official bid numbers; golf course use reclaimed.

David Ottinger-Town Attorney- confirmed reclaim usage.

Renee-resident-commented on current water quality; questioned if wells will be on private property.

Mr. Murphy doesn't believe there is a need to drill on private property; no decision to put to a vote at this time; recommends reaching out to commission; long process; purpose of last two meetings is to get public input.

Discussion ensued regarding whether an assessment would be needed for galvanized pipe replacement; older estimate of costs of replacing galvanized pipe; a lot has been replaced since that time; potential of Pinellas County moving to tiered structure in future.

Mr. Murphy spoke on general fund revenue costs; potential for municipal public service tax on water-can do if switch to County-gives another stream of Revenue. Discussed time frame - SWFWMD funding to consider; Commission consensus that they should make the decision.

Gay Collins-resident-spoke on waste associated with RO; concerned with costs to those on fixed incomes.

Mr. Murphy discussed 80% efficiency of industrial system; injection well; Mr. Locke stated home systems are much less efficient.

Discussion regarding presentation being available to residents online.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned in due form at 7:45 PM.

Commissioner Wilkinson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Shelly.

Aye: 4 - Deputy Mayor Rettstatt, Commissioner Wilkinson, Commissioner Shelly, and Commissioner Kurey

Absent: 1 - Mayor Katica

TOWN CLERK

APPROVED:

DEPUTY MAYOR