

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held both in person and via virtual meeting portal Zoom Meeting, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Grambley, Kroger, Lakin, Schuyler, Thomas, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ductile Iron Water Line Replacement Project Needs and Environmental Assessments

Town Manager Preston Neill addressed the Council and explained the public hearing was being held to inform citizens and solicit public input regarding the Town Ductile Iron Water Line Replacement Project Needs Assessment and Environmental Assessment. He reported the Town has been pre-approved for a grant from the Department of Local Affairs, and the process for a loan application from CDPHE has begun, which requires holding a public hearing to inform the public and provide an opportunity to receive input.

Town Engineer Joanne Fagan presented background on the Town water system and the Town's ability to operate the system. Raw water is drawn from Beaver Creek and Happy Hollow Ditch, she explained and delivered to a pre-sedimentation pond prior to being treated at the water treatment plant. The system has a capacity of a half million gallons a day, processes through a micro-filter system which filters everything above 0.5 micron, and is held in two 300,000 gallon above ground water storage tanks. The tank flows into a distribution system, with a water transmission line beginning immediately below the water treatment plant. The existing line is 4000 feet of unsheathed ductile iron pipe and carries water to all Town customers via Amelia Street to Moffat Street. It was installed in about 1980, and at the time the line was not required to be sheathed to prevent corrosion. In the spring of 2023 there was a significant failure in this line and during repairs staff noted significant indications of additional failures, which could lead to a "boil water order", which also took place during the failure last spring.

Engineer Fagan noted options to address the failing water line are to replace the full length of the ductile iron pipe with non-corrosive plastic pipe; replace the pipe in sections over time; or to "do nothing". The option to do nothing would mean to wait until another location fails and replace the pipe as needed; the initial cost would be low, but would incur a higher cost over time; create problems over many years including the need to place into effect "boil water orders"; in the end the pipeline would have many repair couplings and pieces of new pipe. The option to replace sections of the pipe over time would spread costs and likely cost more overall; could present the likelihood of a section not replaced failing while waiting for a section to be replaced; the Town has other water projects to complete and spreading the project out will take resources away from these other projects. The final option is to replace the entire line at one time. This option has the highest initial cost but is a more comprehensive solution; likely the total cost would be less than a "piecemeal approach"; reduces the risk the line would need to be removed from service in the future.

Staff has chosen the comprehensive solution and she presented the preliminary project cost estimate, with a total budget of \$1,250,000 and a 20% contingency. The potential funding scenario includes a \$600,000 Impact Grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Energy

and Mineral Impact Assistance Program Funds; and a Colorado Department of Public Health (CDPHE) State Revolving Loan for \$650,000 with an interest rate of 3.2% over 20 years. Debt service to the Town would be \$44,100 a year. She stated this would not require an increase in operating costs, and thus not a rate increase to users. She did note with future projects “looming”, staff plans to evaluate both the water and sewer rates later this year.

Staff will be attending a public hearing in late February for the DOLA grant application she reported, and will submit the loan application by the filing deadline of March 15<sup>th</sup>. If the grant and loan are awarded, project requests for proposals would be solicited in the Spring, and construction begin in July and be completed by November.

There were questions from the Council.

The Mayor asked for comments from the public, and none were received.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft  
Town Clerk