

Special Town Council Meeting August 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Tom Shaffer, Mike Walter, Paul Kramer, Mark McLaughlin, Public Works Director Curtis Green and Clerk Ginger Galiger were present.

Guests: Van Puckett Sanitarian, Melissa Brummell Public Health Nurse, Bonnie O'Neil Public Information Officer, Dustin Tetrault DES, Lynda Holt DES, John Camden MT Rural Water, Greg Holzman DPHHS, Jim Murphy DPHHS, John Price and Eugene Pizzini with DEQ, Fred Phillips with Great West, Dayna Leavens Thergesen and Brenda Green from Ruby Valley Hospital/Clinic.

Mayor Tom Shaffer called the Special Town Council meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. and has opened the floor to discuss the proceedings on the Towns current water issues.

Mark McLaughlin wanted to start by letting everyone know that Bob Stump, Curtis Green, Mayor Tom Shaffer and himself went to Helena to meet with DEQ to form a game plan and felt that they had left there well informed. Mark asked why the County started doing their own sampling? Mr. Pizzini with DEQ said that they did talk about an action plan and giving the required public education within 60 days of the action level exceedance and that DEQ strongly recommended that the system consider giving the notice sooner rather than later saying that was one of the main issues coming out of Flint, MI.

Melissa Brummell with the local Public Health Department wants the information out there sooner and she wants to address what information is going out in the brochures. The Department of Public Health and Human Services' view on this is that this is a public health threat and the concern here is the public. There is also concern that there will be confusion when the information is released and they want to be prepared and everyone is on the same page and not anticipate the worst. There was more discussion on the brochure and the phone numbers that were given.

Mr. Pizzini stated that we have exceeded the action level, we are not in violation. He went on to explain the 90% for testing samples and an overview of the Lead and Copper Rule. The Town of Sheridan has a varied range of results dating back to 1975 and DEQ does look at the history. The Town of Sheridan does not have any excessive lead levels prior to this testing cycle. There has been a huge swing in sample results.

Mayor Tom Shaffer reported that on an interim measure DEQ is offering bottled water, blood testing and water testing for homes to help the Town of Sheridan. The blood tests and water samples will be sent to the State Lab. DEQ stated that The Town of Sheridan needs to be working on setting up a new sample site map to include 20 sites.

The Department of Health and Human Services wants to encourage children under the age of 6 to be tested. Every child should be tested just as a preventative measure. If a blood level came back high there would be an assessment done to determine the cause. Other elements than water can have lead in it such as old paint.

Dayna Leavens Thergesen discussed the testing that she has done with pediatrics. Anyone that tested prior to January 2016 could be retested and then there would be a baseline to compare. More discussion with the DPHHS in what the most accurate form of testing is. Fred Phillips with Great West Engineering suggested if someone comes to have their blood tested it should coincide with their tap water being tested. We were also informed by Brenda Green that there is a standing order at the Ruby Valley Hospital so people do not need to see a Provider. All lab tests will be sent to the State lab for consistency.

John Camden with MT Rural Water discussed the importance of letting the testing site set still for a minimum of 6 hours prior to collecting the sample. Mr. Pizzini wants the public to be educated on the proper way to take a sample. He also recommends letting the water run until it is cold prior to using your tap water for consumption. John Camden also recommends testing the 5 wells as soon as possible.

Fred Phillips with Great West and Curtis Green PWD will be working together once the Task order No. 3 for the corrosion control study is approved. Fred Phillips explained the chemical injecting system and the Town of Sheridan already has a system for chlorine. Great West will do the water sampling from the wells next week and the corrosion plan will be in place by the end of the year. This approach has been the solution for over 90% and this plan will increase the long term safety in the future.

Dustin Tetrault with DES wants an instant action plan together by the end of the night. Where is the distribution center going to be to provide water, possibly filters, blood testing, sample testing kits. Mr. Tetrault would like to send a mass notification out first thing in the morning to inform the public of the assistance that will be available. There should also be someone at the distribution site with correct information to answer questions. Public Health added that by making things available as a cautious approach to the people concerned and being transparent to the public. As water testing results come back we should provide a list of the testing results. Blood testing results cannot be made public due to HIPAA.

Commissioner Dave Schultz expressed the importance of correct communication so the public is not misinformed. He also asked if the Town Council still wants to keep 8/15/2016 date for the public educational meeting or should it be moved forward? Mayor Tom Shaffer explained the reasoning behind the date that was chosen. With the fair going on many parents will be unavailable prior to the 15th. Mr. Schultz applauded the proactive efforts that are being taken tonight.

Continued discussion on where the distribution site should be. Mayor Shaffer agreed to use the fire department bays. This would be an easy building to load water into with a fork lift.

Task order No. 3 Agreement for professional services to conduct corrosion study and sample the four town well sites and deliver samples to Energy Lab for analysis. **Mayor Shaffer called the question of the council:** Mike Walter voting yes, Paul Kramer voting yes, Mark McLaughlin voting yes. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Approved: Tom Shaffer, Mayor

Attest: Ginger Galiger, Clerk