

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS HELD ON MARCH 17, 2016, AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N. HALAGUENO STREET, CARLSBAD, NM**

<b>VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Gary Perkowski Fred Beard Russell Hardy</b>	<b>Member Member Member</b>
<b>VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	<b>Craig Stephens Larry Henderson</b>	<b>Chairman Member</b>
<b>EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Steve McCutcheon</b>	<b>Ex-Officio/City Administrator/ Secretary</b>
<b>EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	<b>Mayor Dale Janway</b>	<b>Ex-Officio/Member</b>
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Stephanie Shumsky Eileen Riordan Mike Hernandez Annette Barrick LaVelta Jenkins Ron Myers Jamey Schwiger Joe Harvey Wes Nichols Richard Aguilar George Vini</b>	<b>Deputy City Administrator City Attorney Deputy Director Public Works City Clerk Deputy City Treasurer Double Eagle Superintendent Water Dept. Superintendent Waste Water Superintendent Collections Superintendent Environmental Services National Cave Karst Institute</b>

There are no timestamps available due to Technical Difficulties.

**1. Call to Order**

Gary Perkowski called the meeting to order.

**2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Gary Perkowski called Roll and it was determined that there was a quorum of voting members. Those present were: Gary Perkowski, Russell Hardy and Fred Beard; Absent: Craig Stephens and Larry Henderson.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

The motion was made by Russell Hardy and seconded by Fred Beard to Approve the Agenda. The Vote was as follows, Yes: Gary Perkowski, Russell Hardy and Fred Beard, No: None, Absent: Craig Stephens and Larry Henderson. The Motion passed.

**4. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2016**

The motion was made by Fred Beard and seconded by Gary Perkowski to Approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2016, Regular Meeting. The Vote was as follows, Yes: Gary Perkowski, Russell Hardy and Fred Beard, No: None, Absent: Craig Stephens and Larry Henderson. The Motion passed.

**5. Presentation by Dr. George Veni, Executive Director of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute regarding Karst Hydrology**

Dr. Veni began his presentation with an introduction to the Karst Hydrogeology of the Capitan Aquifer. He explained that a Karst is a terrain formed primarily by dissolution of the bedrock with common features such as caves, sinkholes, underground streams and large springs. He explained the basics of a Karst Aquifer Development. He discussed the following: Groundwater Flow in Karst Aquifers, the Complexities and Complications, a Computer Modeling of Karst Groundwater, Limited but Crucial Capitan Dye Tracing, and the NCKRI Mandates such as furthering Science of Speleology, Centralize and Standardize Speleological Information, Interdisciplinary Cooperation in Cave and Karst Research Programs, Public Education, National and International Cooperation in protecting the environment for the benefit of cave and karst landforms, Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Resource Management Practices. Gary Perkowski thanked Dr. Veni and said the Board will use the information as a resource and he encouraged the use of the Institute. Dr. Veni thanked the City of Carlsbad for their support of the Documentary on Jim White. He said he is very excited about the program.

The members of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners thanked Dr. Veni for his presentation.

**6. Water & Sewer Department Monthly Reports presented by Mike Hernandez**

Mr. Hernandez reported the WWTP usage is at an all-time low. He said he thinks it is an indicator of what is happening in the oil field. He said some of the haulers have cut back.

Mr. Hernandez reported that the new Late Fees will begin on April 1, 2016. LaVelta Jenkins said the late fee of \$25.00 will be charged on any bill that is not paid by the end of the month following the invoice date. The Reconnect fee will increase from \$10.00 to \$50.00; this amount will be charged on any utility account that has been submitted to the Utilities Department for termination of service due to non-payment. If an account has been submitted to the Utilities Department for termination of service for non-payment, the \$25.00 late fee, the \$50.00 reconnect fee, the delinquent bill and the current bill will have to be paid in full before service will be restored.

Mike Hernandez said the first cut-off cycle will be difficult.

Russell Hardy requested a report regarding Lead in the City Water System. He said he had read about other cities across the nation dealing with lead problems in their water system. Mike Hernandez said there aren't many lead line services in Carlsbad. Richard Aguilar said when the Lead and Copper Reports are done, the residences are pin pointed and most come back undetectable. He said he did not see anything of concern. Eileen Riordan said one difference is the PH of our water, it is not acidic. It does not cause corrosion; it forms scale on the inside of the pipe.

**7. Financial Reports by LaVelta Jenkins**

LaVelta reported on the Revenues from July to December, 2015. Ms. Jenkins presented the Statistical Report. She said there are 10,798 Water Meters in Service and there are 907 inoperative meters and there are 9,974 Sewer Connections. Compared to last year the revenues are lower. Steve McCutcheon said the largest drop has been in Double Eagle Water Sales. He said he has been approached by some to lower the DE price. He said he told them to make their request to this Board. He said the goal of the higher price was conservation; and it has been effective.

Gary Perkowski thanked LaVelta for her assistance with the Carlsbad Municipal Schools accounts. Mr. McCutcheon said the Finance Department is working to get caught up on the Financials and to distribute the reports monthly in the future.

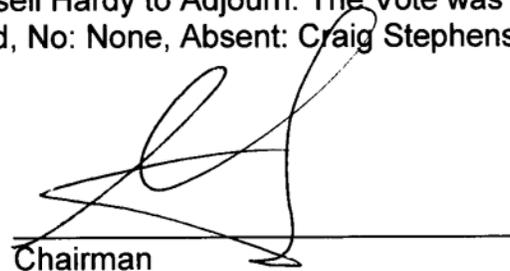
**8. Discussion regarding possible Abandonment of Double Eagle Water Lines and Possible timeline for Abandonment**

Mike Hernandez explained that in the DE Phase I Project, a new line was brought down from the one million and the two million gallon Reservoir to a common point. He said the City was already abandoning the line because there were no meters on the line, that section was already abandoned. He said the part from 3 million gallon all the way to the Grubbs PRV, has several taps and only one paying customer who pays \$25.00 per month. He said we have found that abandoned lines are almost impossible to reactivate. Since that section is no longer in use, the repairs have drastically dropped. It is not currently costing a lot to keep active; there are some free stock tubs. There is water flowing in that line but there is a gap between Highway 82 and the south meters. Steve McCutcheon said a Water Company has approached the City about leasing part of the line and Ms. Riordan and Maria O'Brien are reviewing the City's Rights-of-Way. The City is going to look at a much larger abandonment when the new system is tied into Double Eagle. He said the Legal Department is looking at this very seriously. Mike Hernandez said there is a jumper on the line to temporarily keep the line active.

Mr. McCutcheon said when the research is done; Mike will bring it back to the board. Mr. Beard asked if the Ranchers on the line had been part of the discussion. Ron Myers said he has not discussed it yet, but there are other sources for stock water. Mike Hernandez said the Ranchers will be given time to work out the details of finding another source. Mr. McCutcheon said he has been discussing it with some of the Ranchers but they will be formally notified and make sure they all know. He said it has been discussed it for years and the Ranchers are aware. He said the ROWs are difficult and expensive to obtain. He said they are expensive for the City to maintain.

**9. Adjourn**

The motion was made by Fred Beard and seconded by Russell Hardy to Adjourn. The Vote was as follows, Yes: Gary Perkowski, Russell Hardy and Fred Beard, No: None, Absent: Craig Stephens and Larry Henderson. The Motion passed.



Chairman