

Manager's Agenda

Board Meeting

August 15, 2005

➤ **DOCUMENTS ATTACHED**

- Agenda
- Meeting Minutes
 - *July 20, 2005* (Agenda Item)
- Claim Dockets
 - *Month of August claims and transfers* (Agenda Item)
- Document
 - *Hand-written invitation prepared by customers with concern over the high cost of utility service provided by JNRU; this document was passed out to invite concerned CSL residents to the County Commissioner's Meeting in order to express their concerns over high utility rates.* (Agenda Item)
- Document
 - *Invitation to Residents of CSL to transition CSL's Home Owners Association into a tax-based Indiana Town.*

➤ **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Common Water/Sewer Department Issues:
 - **Budget Committee Meeting;** *the Budget Committee met on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 to review and discuss financial data, customer loss and budget status. Preliminary forecasts indicate approximate revenue losses as shown below:*
 - Sewer: \$35,000 for the year
 - Water:..... \$19,000 for the year
 - Proactive Expense Reduction;
 - *Two (2) field-employee positions not being refilled due to the loss of revenues: One (1) part-time field employee left his position in July for a full-time work opportunity and one (1) full-time field position was vacated; this loss of field staff will put an additional burden on the remaining staff. (Approximately \$22K savings for 2005 budget, \$53,500 for 2006.)*
 - *Employee Health Insurance Benefits:* Preliminary options for employees sharing the rising cost of healthcare insurance premiums for their dependents are being discussed for the 2006 Budget.

- **Rate Study Group;** *the fourth meeting of the four-meeting series is concluded, however, a fifth meeting is being planned in order to edit/comment on a draft document being prepared that is intended to provide to the Board recommendations for modifying the utilities rate structure. The Rate Study Group recommendations should be ready for presentation at the September board meeting.*
- **Finance (H.J. Umbaugh)**
 - Rate Study: Providing information for; 1) *PERs for sewer projects', and 2) lost customers affect on revenues. Meeting scheduled for Thursday.*
 - State Board of Accounts: *State audit for CY 2003 and 2004 began last Thursday and should last 2-3 weeks.*
- **Legal (Mary Ann Gay)**
 - NV vs. JNRU: *Hearing date...?*
 - County Auditor: *Response to Mary's approach to liens being recorded but not applied to the tax bills, released, etc...*
- **County Commissioner's Meeting** *(attachment)*
 - *Utility customers approached the County Commissioners at their Monday, August 8, 2005 meeting to express their concerns over the high cost of utility service provided by JNRU. I answered many of their questions during the meeting and invited them to attend monthly JNRU board meetings. Some of their expressed concerns are listed below:*
 - *JNRU won't tell who is on the Board!*
 - *JNRU won't tell when they're having meetings!*
 - *JNRU charges for water that doesn't even go down the sewer (i.e. pool fills, watering lawn and garden, cleaning home, etc...)!*
 - *JNRU charges \$200 utility bills!*
 - *JNRU meetings are always screaming and shouting matches!*
- **Theft of water/sewer service???**
 - *Planning to meet with County Health officials to see what their position is on addressing occupied properties without water and sewer service.*
- **Office Building Improvement Projects**
 - Clean & Paint Building:
 - *Completed*
 - Concrete work:
 - *Completed Sidewalks*
 - Shop work: *run water lines to shop sink, install doors, run air lines and build cabinets. (Fall/Winter Project)*

○ Water Department

- **What causes water loss? Water Loss is primarily caused by the following:**
 - Water meters slowing down with age: *We need an estimated \$15,000 more water revenue each year to begin replacing 10% of the water meters each year; a ten-year water meter service life is the industry standard to meet.*
 - Water leaks throughout the distribution system, and: *Field staffs are repairing water leaks as quickly as they are able to.*
 - Fire fighting: *Homes on fire that are being put out by firemen tend to use a lot of unmetered water.*

○ Sewer Department

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)**
 - No violations in July: *The field staff cleaned the EQ Basin with 1½” fire hose to remove solids and algae; all water from the EQ Basin was discharged to the West lagoon for approximately two weeks until the EQ Basin cleared itself of suspended solids that might have caused NPDES permit violations.*
 - UV System: *UV Bulbs were flooded after the startup due to a problem with the effluent modulating valve; it opened fully to a flow of approximately 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm), normally set at 700-1,000 gpm. One of the three UV banks sustained enough damage to require additional repairs from an outside contractor.*
- **Engineering Projects (Calendar of project deadlines)**
 - Hayden (2nd Compliance Plan progress report due)
 - **Recommendation;** *authorize North Vernon and County officials to pursue alternative means of providing sewer service and treatment for Hayden to avoid a deadlock in their efforts to find alternatives.*
 - **IDEM;** *internal meeting held last Friday to discuss de-annexation... I expressed interest and concerns for Hayden...explained that the worst-case scenario for IDEM would be that Hayden revisits the implementation of the proposed JNRU project.*
 - WWTP (PER nearing completion)
 - **Meeting;** *scheduled to meet with Commonwealth to discuss plant design alternatives being included in the PER, also to discuss concerns over cost and operations...*
 - **EQ Basin;** *liner failing...liner floating...?*
 - Phase I Sewer Expansion (PER nearing completion)
 - *PER will be completed after rate study is provided to engineers; this will allow the board to approach Phase I*

residents for support of a sewer project... if not enough support for a sewer project, the board would need to:

- *Decide whether or not to de-annex the area to avoid additional IDEM Agreed Orders, and/or;*
- *Decide whether to charge the Phase I residents their representative portion of the original debt associated with the failed Phase I sewer expansion and WWTP projects, or, to let the Country Squire Lakes customer base continue to carry the entire debt associated with the failed Phase I sewer expansion and WWTP projects.*
- **CSL Collection System** (Compliance Plan due February 8, 2006)
 - *Signatures for PER contract*
 - *Concerned with \$25K cost of PER; grant funds may only be available after project goes into construction completion... up front costs must be paid whether construction begins or not...*
 - *Overflow Problems; the reason JNRU is under this Agreed Order: the CSL dam needs sufficient level control to alleviate a large portion of JNRU's sewer overflow problems...Project 1) construct dam level control structure, and Project 2) improve CSL's unpiped and culvert drainage system...*

➤ **DOCUMENTS TO REMEMBER**

- Board Meeting minutes approval
 - **July 20, 2005:..... (Monthly meeting)**
- Claim Dockets
 - **July 2005**
- DMR/MRO signatures
 - **July 2005 reports**
- DMRQA 25
 - **2005 Data Reports**