

FEAB January 2019

FEAB MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2019

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room, Public Works, 555 South Section Street, Fairhope, AL

Member Attendees: Gary Gover, Jim Horner, Ben Frater, Jeanine Normand, Ron Allen, Tony Pritchett and Mike Shelton

City Council: None

City of Fairhope: Kim Burmeister, Planning and Zoning Department; Christina LeJeune, Planning and Zoning Department; Jeremy Morgan, Electric Department

Honored Guests: John Manelos

Minutes taken by: Kim Burmeister

FEAB MINUTES:

December 2018 minutes were approved as amended. Jim's written comments from the last meeting were included, and these members were added to the contact list: Ben Frater, Shawn Graham, Jim Horner.

Discussion of Items:

1. Sewer System Infrastructure

Jeremy Morgan, Assistant Electrical Superintendent and SCADA system operator, explained how the system is operated. He is still the only employee that works specifically with the SCADA system. No new SCADA personnel has been added. Per Jeremy: The SCADA system is for supervisory control and data acquisition, but the water/sewer department only use it for data acquisition and not for controls. The lift stations are not on fiber and are instead monitored by "Cradle Point" radio controls. The system would be more reliable if it were linked with fiber. There are currently 70+ lift stations in Fairhope. Richard Peterson has a 5-year plan for system improvements and he (RP) would be the best person to address the group with details of his 5 year plan.

Tony mentioned the many sewer overflows in 2018 and would like to know what has been done to prevent overflows. He is also concerned that no new personnel has been added to monitor the SCADA system. He was under the impression that Richard Peterson would be adding new SCADA personnel in 2018.

John Manelos said that there was a recent (Sept. 2018) significant overflow in Tatumville gully.

Jim asked if the City is still doing smoke tests on sewer lines to find infiltrations. Kim said the City is doing video testing of sewer lines, which can go farther than the smoke test. Video tests of sewer lines can go up to 500’.

John thinks the City should do a better job of following up on watershed studies. There has been little or no follow up on the recent studies such as: Mobile Baykeeper Fly Creek water testing study (2018) Sewer Capacity Study (2017); Fly Creek Watershed Study (2013). He would like to know if the City has done any of the actions proposed in these studies. Kim said the City’s purchase of the triangle (Dyas) property at the entrance to Fairhope in the Fly Creek watershed was an action plan listed in the Fly Creek Watershed Study, but she is not sure if anything else in this plan has been done.

Mike and Gary expressed concern that there has been no follow up to the Sewer Capacity Study (released in 2017). Tony said that it’s been over a year since this study has been done and there should be a list of action taken to date. What actions have been taken?

Gary noted that there are now storage tanks at the lift stations to hold some overflow.

Jeanine said the frequent sewer overflows are not acceptable and FEAB should ask Council and Mayor to act on preventing the overflows now. Mike and Ron felt it is imperative to hear RP’s 5 year plan and what the actions have been and will be done from the Sewer Capacity Study before sending a strong directive.

John said the City has very competent leadership, but leaders need to be told what the priorities are to the citizens. If the sewer overflows are perceived as the biggest priority than that will be put first on the list. John has attended several council sessions. He said RP has asked for funding for staff and upgrades but has been turned down. He is also concerned over who is managing the \$30K in funding for capital improvements. He feels the City needs to hire someone to oversee the funding, so that Richard Peterson can concentrate on sewer and infrastructure upgrades instead of managing the funds.

2. Council Representation:

Kim said Conyers called her prior to today's meeting and asked that any directives the group has for him be emailed immediately. He is unable to attend today's meeting. Mike said it is important that the group have council representation so that motions can be followed through at the next Council meetings. Kim will make sure Conyers gets first draft of the minutes on the Monday morning following the Friday meetings.

3. Motions made and passed:

1. FEAB requests a written report stating:
 - a. Corrective actions taken in lieu of the 2018 sewer overflows
 - b. Follow up action taken from the Sewer Capacity Study detailing what activities / projects have been done, which activities or projects are planned, and time line for completion of planned projects.
NOTE: Jeanine introduced the motion, Jim seconded, passed unanimously
2. FEAB requests that Jimmy Conyers formally invite Richard Peterson to the next FEAB meeting to discuss RP's 5 year plan and immediate action plans to address sewer overflows.
NOTE: Mike introduced the motion, and Tony seconded it. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m. Next meeting is Friday, February 8th, 3 p.m. at the Fairhope Public Library Boardroom.

FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

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