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**PAGOSA SPRINGS SANITATION
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009
Town Hall Council Chambers
5:00 P.M.**

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Mayor Aragon, Council Member Cotton, Council Member Holt, Council Member Jackson, Council Member Pierce, Council Member Weiler, Council Member Weiler
- II. **APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 2nd & 18th, 2009** – Minutes were approved as read.
- III. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. **Update on Waste Water Treatment Plant Funding** – District Manager, Phil Starks, presented several treatment options for the lagoon system including hiring as a consultant, Mr. Dick Bowman, PE a retired CDPHE engineer and now a private consultant to help with the modifications. Along with dredging of cells (\$200K) and headworks (\$400K), options for discussion were a discharge wetlands and sand filtration system, a fermentation pit, integrated fixed film system, relocating the SBR's and Membrane Bio Reactor. The estimates given don't include additional engineering or the guarantee that these options will meet the effluent requirements. Council Member Pierce suggested taking increased maintenance costs into consideration for each option. Another aspect is challenging the finding of a 2002 report, due to a drought that year; if challenged the effluent standards for the town could be raised with a new stream study. Mr. Patrick O'Brien with Briliam Engineering said any of the options suggested will only be a band-aid and will last maybe 5-10 years. Council Member Volger said it may only be a band-aid to go with the less expensive options, but it does buy the Town some time to wait for the economy to turn around and potential growth to show if the District can move forward with a new plant. Council Member Weiler suggests challenging the stream study and the standard that we are forced to conform to. An interim solution must be one that we can fund, and keep the \$1.25 million dollar DOLA grant to pay for it. Everyone agrees that challenging the river standards is the first step. Briliam Engineering will present a cost for engineering the river standards challenge at the Special Meeting scheduled for July 9th, 2009. A response from the State should take between 2-3 months. Town Manager Mitchem suggests looking at a portion of the engineered mechanical plant at \$4 million and this should meet State standards and funding is very possible. This option can be added onto at a later date as the Town grows, and if a band-aid is put on now this mechanical plant will most likely have to be done in the next five years once the band-aid fails. Mr. Thad McCain believes the community is not getting positive information from the Town Council and the decisions made on important subjects are not moving forward. He hopes that the Town Council can move on the issues that need to be addressed including this sewer plant. Mr. Patrick O'Brien with Briliam Engineering suggests building the \$4 million dollar plant if it can be afforded; however with the high costs he can understand having to move on the lower cost band-aids. Council Member Volger moved to approve no more than \$5,000 in engineering

costs to determine the viability of Options #2 and #3. Council Member Cotton seconded, motion carried with two nays (Council Member Pierce and Council Member Weiler). Briliam Engineering will present the costs of Options #2 (Fermentation Pit) and #3 (Integrated Fixed Film System) to the board at the special meeting on June 9th, 2009.

2. **Implementing Plant Investment Fee Waiver** – This item has been continued until after the July 9th worksession.

IV. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

1. **District Manager Report** – May's flows were .211 MGD on average, with an 89% removal rate for BOD and no violations. Wetland mitigation required for the East Highway 160 sewer line should be completed after the transformation of the southern most bank of the old lagoon to create an 8,000 square foot area. After seeding and erosion matting is installed, this should satisfy the Corps according to Sandy Friedley, the wetland engineer.

V. Next Board Meeting July 23, 2009 at 12:00pm

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Upon motion duly made, the meeting adjourned at 8:50pm