

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF UPSHUR, CITY OF BUCKHANNON, TO WIT:

A special meeting of the Buckhannon Water Board was held on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The following individuals were in attendance (GTM – GoToMeeting):

Robbie Skinner	Mayor	Present
Randy Sanders	City Recorder	Absent
Don Nestor	Board Member	Present
Erasmio Rlzo	Board Member	Present
David McCauley	City Council Member	Present
David Thomas	City Council Member	Present
Jay Hollen	City Engineer	Present
Jerry Arnold	Director of Public Works	Present
Amberle Jenkins	Assistant Recorder/Director of Finance	Present
Barbara Hinkle	Office Manager	Present
Kelly Arnold	Water Department Superintendent	Present
Jerry Wamsley	Water Department	Present
Monica Zalaznik	My Buckhannon	Present
Alice Teets	Utility Clerk/Minute Taker	Present

Guests: Mark Sankoff, Tim Ball, David Sharp, Potesta & Associates; Brian Elmore, Mt. Hope Water Assn.; Shane Whitehair, Region VII PDC; Howard Cutright, Hodgesville P.S.D.

*City of Buckhannon Water Board
Special Meeting Agenda for Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:00pm at City Hall in Council Chambers*

- A. Call to Order**
 - A.1 Moment of Silence
 - A.2 Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America
- B. Recognized Guests**
 - B.1 Potesta & Associates, Inc.
 - B.2 Adrian Public Service District
 - B.3 Elkins Road Public Service District
 - B.4 Mt Hope Water Association
 - B.5 Hodgesville Public Service District
 - B.6 Tennerton Public Service District
- C. Discussion Proposed Water Treatment Plant**
 - C.1 Background
 - C.2 Configuration
 - C.3 Current Issues Requiring Correction

D. Adjournment

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- A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Skinner who asked all to join him in a moment of silence. He then led the attendees in the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the findings from Potesta & Associates regarding their study of the feasibility of current water plant versus need for new plant.
- B. Recognized Guests**
 - B.1 Potesta & Associates, Inc.**
 - B.2 Adrian Public Service District:** No representative present.
 - B.3 Elkins Road Public Service District:** No representative present.
 - B.4 Mt Hope Water Association**
 - B.5 Hodgesville Public Service District**
 - B.6 Tennerton Public Service District:** No representative present.
- C. Discussion Proposed Water Treatment Plant**
 - C.1 Background**

Tim Ball, previous employee of Morgantown Water Plant and current Potesta employee, spoke to the highlights of the report regarding current issues requiring correction. The WTP was originally constructed in the mid-1960's, modified/updated in the mid-1980's and again in 2016-2017. It has been well maintained, and the employees are to be commended for their work and diligence, but the plant has aged and visibly compared to when it was new.

C.2 Configuration: & C.3 Current Issues Requiring Correction:

Specific Issues mentioned:

- Inadequate detention times. The WTP is at 38 minutes. State regulations designate a minimum of two hours. This is a violation, but we are “grandfathered” in. However, there is concern that the state will eventually not allow this.
- Lack of redundancy of important equipment.
- Structural degradation. The plant will likely need more intensive and extensive repairs probably every 5 years.
- We use gaseous chloride to treat the water. This is very effective but not recommended to use in a residential area. The recommendation is to convert to sodium hydrochloride as it is safer than gaseous chloride.
- Electrical system needs updated/corrected.
- Some of our equipment is obsolete, the parts needed for repairs are not usually available through standard vendors.
- Currently, we do not recycle backwash water; a new plant will be designed differently and will save money and resources.
- There is flood plan encroachment.

He compliments the staff for getting the most life out of the plant as possible. It is easier and more cost effective to rebuild than to rehabilitate at this point. He did not see anything to him that seemed in danger of catastrophic failure.

Mayor Skinner made the distinction that when this WTP was constructed in the 1960’s, our customer base, with the addition of P.S.D.s, since the plant has been built has grown exponentially. Board member Don Nestor asked if any major renovations would be needed to the current plant prior to completion of a new plant. Mr. Ball does not anticipate that need if the plans for a new plant begin soon. Councilperson David McCauley stated that we are partners with the P.S.D.s; let’s keep communication open.

Mayor Skinner commented there are two schools of thought on the rate increase; to either do a lump sum increase or stair step the increases. City Engineer Jay Hollen asked if Potesta could give any insight into the potential rate increases? Not at this time, but at the next meeting they should be able to bring some information. The City of Buckhannon will definitely keep the P.S.D.s informed of plans and possible increases. Region VII can help with finding different financing options.

D. Adjournment. Motion Nestor/Skinner to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

Mayor Robert N. Skinner III _____

City Recorder Randall H. Sanders _____