

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PHILIP, SD
SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING
October 19, 2020**

A special emergency meeting of the Philip City Council was held on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Ambulance Building and via Zoom (Meeting ID: 881 8324 6655). Present were Mayor Michael Vetter and Council Members Terri Pelle, Marion Matt, Scott Pinney, Trisha Larson (via Zoom) and Marty Gartner. Also present were City Administrator Brittany Smith; Finance Officer Monna Van Lint; Public Works Director Matt Reckling; City Attorney Stephanie Trask; Jerry Hunt with Weston Engineering; Haakon Co. Commissioners Steve Clements and Nick Konst; Haakon Co. Auditor Carla Smith; Lake Waggoner Golf Course Board Members Travis Terkildsen, Luke Weber, Brock Slovek and Casey Sawvell; William McDaniel; Karl Schulz; Harlan Moos; Branden Moos; Elliot McQuirk; Bill Slovek and Pat Seager.

Absent: Council Member Brit Miller

Mayor Vetter called the meeting to order. He advised that the reasoning for the meeting is to address the City's artesian well that recently starting leaking, causing major concern.

Motion was made by Pinney, seconded by Matt to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Vetter then introduced Jerry Hunt with Weston Engineering who has supplied an estimate to reline and/or abandon the well. Vetter stressed that Hunt is very knowledgeable about wells and comes with many years of experience.

Hunt reviewed the estimate, noting the following steps that will be involved to reline and/or plug the well.

Run wireline down the well to establish the hole size and depth - \$16,000. If successful, proceed with casing scraper and if not, plug/abandon the well.

Casing scraper - \$73,500. He noted that there are potential risks with scraping the existing well casing. More specifically, if the casing is in poor condition, it can result in twisting or tearing the casing so extra caution must be taken. If the casing scraper is successful, proceed with relining and if not, plug/abandon the well.

Reline the well - \$151,420. This includes a cement liner with a 5 ½" diameter steel casing (estimated flow is 700 gallon/minute). The steel casing is \$19.50 per foot with a 60-year life expectancy whereas a stainless-steel casing is estimated over \$75.00 per foot with a 100-year life expectancy. He mentioned that the steel casing would not only be more feasible but also more suitable.

Plug and abandon the well - \$75,450. This includes packing and cementing the well.

*The total estimate for relining the well is \$240,920 with a steel casing. The total estimate to plug and abandon the well is \$91,450 (without casing scraper), or \$164,950 (with casing scraper).

Hunt went on to explain the well layout in detail and noted that he anticipates the leak (pin holes in the casing) to be within 30 to 50' below the surface. With that, he mentioned that a less expensive alternative option would be to clean out the top 400 foot of the well but stressed that this would not be a long-lasting repair.

Vetter questioned a timeline for the repairs and/or plugging of the well.

Hunt advised that they could start around the end of next week. It was noted that City personnel have opened more of the valves to release pressure on the well, but this is only short-term. It is of his opinion that something will need to be done in the near future to prevent the well from failure including that of damaging the surrounding area. In addition, digging a new well of this size is estimated around \$850,000.

Vetter went on to mention that the well is a valuable resource but no longer provides direct benefits to the City--only indirect benefits. The main beneficiaries were noted as follows: Lake Waggoner Golf Course - irrigation purposes/clubhouse heat; Haakon Co. Highway Dept. Shop - heat source; McQuirk Ditching - heat source; MinKota Fisheries – fish hatchery/green house (currently not in use); Gene and Sheryl Michael – downstream run off; Lake Waggoner area property owners; and, local ranchers. He then mentioned the value to reline and/or plug the well while questioning how this will be funded.

Discussion ensued.

It was inquired about potential grant opportunities for relining the well.

CA Smith advised that she has been in contact with the planning district and to their knowledge, grants are not available for this type of repair. She will continue to pursue other options.

It was then questioned if the City anticipates covering the entire expense if the well must be plugged? In other words, is the City looking for assistance to cover the difference between relining and plugging?

By general consensus of the Council, the City owns the well and in turn, would be responsible for the expenses to plug the well which is estimated between \$91,450 and \$161,450.

Concerns for the lake and golf course were mentioned. More specifically, the well supplements the lake and provides the only source of irrigation for the golf course. It was stressed that the well is vital to these recreational facilities. In addition, the homeowners along the lake should also be concerned.

The well failure during the relining process was also questioned.

Hunt advised that he is optimistic that the well can be relined but would estimate a nine-percent failure rate.

It was reported that the Haakon Co. Commission will be meeting again on Nov. 6, 2020. They are planning to discuss the well along with any potential contribution.

Further comments about the users securing the additional estimated \$90,000 to reline the well were mentioned, especially the timeline.

By general consensus, it was recommended to have a plan to the City within couple weeks.

With no further comments, motion was made by Pelle, seconded by Pinney to approve to estimate from Weston Engineering, Inc. as presented above. ((For the record, said expense is exempt from bidding pursuant to SDCL 5-18A-22(4), equipment repair contracts. In addition, other well contractors were contacted but declined interest.)) Motion carried with all members voting aye.

Hunt also confirmed that the Haakon Co. Highway Dept. Shop and McQuirk will need to pursue an alternative heat source while the well is shutdown to complete the work.

Discussion of adding a water salesman to the well for other users was also mentioned and will be considered further. The initial estimated cost is \$7,000 without electricity and an enclosure around the well. Agreements amongst the main users will also be pursued in the future.

With nothing further, Mayor Vetter thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

/s/ Michael Vetter, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Brittany Smith, City Administrator

(Publish: Oct. 29, 2020 at an approximate cost of \$_____)