

The joint meeting of April 4, 2012 was called to order at 11:05 a.m. Present were Commissioners Charlotte Haines, Ron Ricker and Larry Schoonmaker; Diane Pottinger, District Manager and Jaime Placencia, Executive Assistant. Those present representing Ronald Wastewater District were Commissioners Arthur Wadkamper, Brian Carroll and Robert Ransom; Mike Derrick, District Manager; Joseph Bennett, District Attorney and Scott Christensen, District Engineer. Representing Highlands Sewer District were Commissioners Michael Maloney and John Harris; Paul Konrady, District Engineer and Steve Bishop of Bader Martin representing Highlands Sewer District.

Introductions.

Mr. Derrick discussed the utilities and the need for ratepayers to know more about what each district does.

Ms. Pottinger inquired about how HSD educates their ratepayers. Commissioner Harris informed the group that they regularly communicate using their website, mailing and at meetings. Commissioner Harries stated that new customers to HSD receive a “Green Book” which provides a history of the District and more detailed information.

Mr. Derrick stated he would like to know the concerns of the Commissioners as it relates to potential mergers and the possible purchase of the water system on the west side of the Shoreline by the City. Commissioner Carroll stated he was concerned the City of Shoreline is not economically in a position to buy utilities and that it would put a burden on the residents of Shoreline.

Commissioner Harris explained that Highlands Sewer District is much different than a larger entity in that they serve a small area and made a conscious decision to run as an independent system. He stated there is a practical desire to remain independent.

The Boards each discussed the goal of the City of Shoreline to become a “full service city”. Commissioner Carroll stated that the City of Shoreline has not made any efforts to look at the stormwater infrastructure which they have managed for 15 years. He continued that there is a concern for how well and effectively the City has managed the stormwater system.

Mr. Derrick raised the question as to whether there were alternatives to the City purchasing and managing the water utility. Ms. Pottinger informed the group that she is to meet with the City to discuss the possibility of having Shoreline Water District operate the SPU's system. Commissioner Carroll also mentioned that utility tax rates need to be discussed with ratepayers.

Shoreline Deputy Mayor asked the group why they would trust the Seattle City Council more than they do the Shoreline City Council. He stated that SPU takes more from the ratepayers than it puts back into the water system in the Shoreline area. Commissioner Ricker stated it isn't a question of who will do a better job, but whether or not the public is getting all of the information they should. Commissioner Haines stated that the citizens in Shoreline deserve to have a better water system and that SWD could maintain it.

The group discussed as a whole how the utilities could send a unified message to the residents of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park regarding the local utilities.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 9, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS