



Commission Agenda Item Request Form

***MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE BY NOON ON THE
FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE COMMISSION MEETING***

MEETING DATE: 9/13/2012

SUBJECT: Sewer Fund – GRINDER REPAIR/MAINTENANCE FEES

AGENDA SECTION: new business

DEPARTMENT: SEWER FUND

PREPARED BY: JSL

RECOMMENDED ACTION: set fee schedule for repairs & maintenance

Summary

The City is currently absorbing all costs for repair & maintenance of Grinder pumps that fail. In discussions with Mittauer & Associates – it has been recommended that the only way to reduce the cost to the city for these repairs is by setting fees for repairs &/or replacements to pumps that fail due to neglect or abuse of the system.

Staff has started initial studies for this and would recommend that Mittauer & Associates prepare a fee schedule for these repairs in order to encourage better maintenance & care of the grinder pumps by the end users.

ATTACHMENTS: WWTP & System O&M meeting minutes

REVIEWED BY CITY MANAGER: _____jsl_____

**CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS
WASTEWATER SYSTEM O&M DISCUSSION MEETING MINUTES
Mittauer & Associates, Inc. Project No. 1105-01-1**

On April 3, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., a meeting to discuss ways to potentially reduce wastewater system O&M costs was held at City Hall. In attendance were the following persons:

Jeri Langham	City of High Springs
Helen McIver	City of High Springs
Christian Popoli	City of High Springs
David Benton	City of High Springs
Ronnie Aderholt	City of High Springs
J.C. Lazo	City of High Springs
Victoria Schmidt	Water Resource Technologies
Connor Alexander	Water Resource Technologies
Tim Norman	Mittauer & Associates, Inc.
Greg Lang	Mittauer & Associates, Inc.

Key points/issues raised during the meeting included the following:

1. City has 580 Model 110 E-Ones which were installed in Phase 1 and 520 Model 220 E-Ones which were installed in Phases 2 and 3 for a total of 1,100 grinder pumps.
2. From April 2010 to April 2012, 118 E-Ones had been repaired under warranty by Water Resource Technologies. This essentially includes only pumps from Phases 2 and 3 which began operation in April 2010. This corresponds to a 22.7% failure rate in roughly two years.
3. According to Water Resource Technologies, (WRT), the expected failure rate of the pumps should be 2% to 5% per year with 3% being average.
4. Each pump should require servicing after 8 to 10 years, according to WRT.
5. There is no current tracking of pump service. Work order needs to be developed which will identify address when pump repair/maintenance takes place. Malfunctioning pumps are often pulled and replaced with another functioning pump.
6. Database for pump repair/replacement needs to be developed. Need to see if the same customers or areas are having recurring problems so they can be properly addressed.
7. Public education on grinder pump system is essential. City has developed an information pamphlet which meeting attendees should review and comment on.
8. Discussion of modifying/enforcing ordinance to bill property owner if malfunction caused by property owner negligence or abuse. If not paid, shut off water to house. Normal pump maintenance/repairs would not be billed to property owner.

9. City needs to identify which addresses are served by grinder pumps and which are on gravity.
10. ID tags for pumps have been furnished by WRT for City personnel which can allow tracking of pumps but not address where pumps were installed.
11. City staff has modified pump pigtail lengths to allow working on pumps outside of wetwell.
12. Obtaining of system pressure recordings have not yet been performed. Accessing pipe is difficult.
13. Air binding in system could also be a potential problem. There are some air release valves in the system. City staff should check existing air release valves to see if they are functioning properly. Additional air release valves may be warranted.
14. Several check valve assemblies are located in pavement or high traffic areas. Boxes may be crushed or be pushed into HDPE pipe causing a constriction.
15. Several grinder pumps are in areas that do not allow vehicular access by City crews requiring bailing out sewage with buckets. City should amend ordinance to charge property owner to have wetwell pumped out by septic tank company.
16. For commercial establishments which have grease traps, they should submit documentation of pump out to City on recurring basis.
17. City crews need a pipe crimping tool to allow them to shut off flow in HDPE force main during pipe repairs.
18. Someone from City wastewater staff should inspect every grinder pump installation prior to acceptance by City.
19. WRT will provide service agreement proposal to City for repair of grinder pumps.
20. Mittauer & Associates, Inc. will evaluate incorporating VFDs and dissolved oxygen control at WWTP to minimize power costs as part of the WWTP expansion project.
21. Mittauer & Associates, Inc. will evaluate sludge dewatering boxes at WWTP as a means to reduce sludge disposal costs.

Action Items:

1. Develop work order system that tracks repairs/maintenance by address.
2. Develop database of sewer customers.
3. Solicit proposal from WRT for grinder pump repair program.

4. Provide Mittauer & Associates, Inc. with historical O&M costs associated with water and wastewater system.
5. Look into modifying sewer ordinance for charging customers non-routine repairs, verification of grease trap pump outs, and permitting vehicular access to grinder pumps.