



**Town of Coulee Dam**  
*Green Oasis at the Foot of Grand Coulee Dam*

**Minutes**  
**Special Council Meeting**  
**August 22, 2018**  
**4:30pm**

Mayor Price called the Special Council Meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 4:30 p.m.

Council members present: Fred Netzel, Bob Poch, Marcia Warnecke, Ben Alling, Keith St. Jeor

Staff Present: Attorney Mick Howe, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Rich Coffey and Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden. Engineers Kurt Holland and Daniel Cowger of Varela & Associates were also in attendance.

**Discussion Agenda**

A. Wastewater Treatment Plant- Elmer City Connection

Attorney Mick Howe provided the councilmembers a summary of many years' worth of communications between Coulee Dam and Elmer City regarding the new wastewater treatment plant. Howe feels that Coulee Dam has over accommodated and done everything they could to inform Elmer City of the situation and the need for potential repairs to Elmer City pumps. He firmly stated that Coulee Dam cannot gift Elmer City funds to make the repairs.

Kurt Holland of Varela & Associates said that Coulee Dam should not be delaying start-up due to Elmer City. It will be costly to Coulee Dam. Attorney Mick Howe agreed and told the Mayor and Council that we should not be putting our Engineers in a position to deal with Elmer City. It is not fair to them.

Councilman St. Jeor said the current Elmer City pump system is not OSHA compliant and doesn't feel the town should be in the banking business, especially to an entity that already owes us back debt. They could get a loan from a bank.

Councilman Netzel clarified with the attorney that Coulee Dam could not gift funds but could loan them the funds. Attorney Howe stated that it is legal but the town would have to charge reasonable interest on the funds.

A comment was made that the existing pumps may work but there is no guarantee how long.

Mick Howe feels the Town has done everything possible to help. From a legal point, the Town can provide piles of proof of keeping Elmer City involved.


Daniel Cowger and Kurt Holland said that presentations were given to Elmer City and the Tribe. Elmer City helped in the process of selecting an Engineer and was involved in the TAC meetings which selected the preferred alternative. Elmer City and the Tribe both agreed that building a new plant was favored over repairing the existing old plant.

All councilmembers were in agreement that a letter be sent to EPA and cc'd to all other regulatory agencies notifying them of the potential environmental issue if Elmer City doesn't make the repairs and their waste spills on the ground. Varela Engineers will work with the Town Attorney to draft the letter. Councilmembers will be notified once the letter has been drafted so they can have the opportunity to review it individually before it is sent out.

**Adjournment**

Councilmember Bob Poch motioned with Ben Alling seconding to adjourn the Special Council Meeting at 5:46p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor

  
Larry Price

Clerk

  
Stefani Bowden