

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the City of Smiths Grove was held at approximately 7:30 PM, March 10, 1976, at the new County Fire Station, Main at Laurel, Smiths Grove, Kentucky with the following members present; Chairman Margaret Bevarly, Mrs. Brenda Belcher, Mrs. Shelvie Dubree, Dr. J. S. Hill and Mr. George Torrence. Also present was Mr. Ralph Anderson.

Mrs. Bevarly called the meeting to order and then turned the floor over to Mr. Anderson. Mr. Anderson explained that the Barren River Area Development District was requested by Mrs. Bevarly to assess the present and future financial stability of the Smiths Grove Water Works. He explained that with the assistance of James R. Meany & Associates, a summary of the financial reports of the last four years had been composed. In going over this study it was found that operating expenses had increased 56.8% since 1971-72, it also showed a drop of almost \$10,000 in total assets during the last 3 years. The study also showed increases of 321% in equipment repair, 30.6% in salaries, 77% in utilities and 165% in chemicals. The study showed that the Smiths Grove Water Works had a very real problem. There were some alternative actions which the Board could take but the inevitable solution is an increase in rates paid by existing users. It would be the first increase since the utility was in its present form. The report proposed alternative rate structures representing a 30% increase, one with residential and commercial separate and one with them combined. It also proposed a 30% surcharge on existing bills. It was also proposed that the Water Company could sell to Northside Water District.

Discussion was then held on which course to take. It was stated that if the past Boards had fought to maintain the present water company so that in later years the City would have an income from it, that the Board should try and cope with it. Mrs. Bevarly stated that at a later date if they were to consider sewers that Bowling Green had already made a study for Smiths Grove. Mrs. Bevarly stated that she preferred to keep the rates separate instead of combining them. Chairman Bevarly put the question to the Board; Do you want to keep the Water Company or sale to another system? Mrs. Belcher made a motion to keep the water company and cope with it. It was seconded by Mr. Torrence. Dr. Hill stated that he felt in the future it might have to be sold. The vote was then taken, there were no dissensions.

Dr. Hill made a motion that the Board utilize the combined rate. The motion died for lack of a second. Dr. Hill then made a motion to utilize the divided rate schedule, seconded by Mrs. Belcher. Dr. Hill felt that the combined schedule would simplify billing. The vote was Mrs. Belcher, Mrs. Dubree and Mr. Torrence yea and Dr. Hill nay. Mrs. Belcher made a motion that the Board use the listed rates for a 30% increase, seconded by Dr. Hill. There were no dissensions. Mrs. Bevarly instructed Mrs. Belcher to check on obtaining a qualified person to check the water lines and also check on a regular maintenance program.

There being no further business Mrs. Dubree made a motion that the meeting adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Belcher. There were no dissensions.

APPROVED:

Margaret Bevarly
 Chairman, Board of Trustees
 City of Smiths Grove, Kentucky

ATTEST:

Northa Watt
 Clerk, City Smiths Grove, Kentucky