



Control Number: 48819



Item Number: 215

Addendum StartPage: 0

SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-20-1674.WS
PUC DOCKET NO.48819

Timothy F. Barnebee Statement of Position

2021 JUN 17 AM 9:05
FILING CLERK

To begin, let me say that I have been a resident using Northtown Acres Water for 30 years and in that time, I have received all of the services desired and expected. But in addition, after consulting with other's desiring to be heard in this matter, I have failed to carefully monitor this utility to make myself aware of past areas I could have and should have been fully cognizant of with regard to relevant issues. Most of my past employment has been with national companies where I was required to travel extensively, but I also was employed where I acted as the Director of Public Transportation for Navarro and Ellis Counties for several years and while there, I became aware of the methods TXDOT used in order to monitor such positions. Some of those methods included site visits on a monthly basis, a review of pertinent statistics at least monthly, a justification of budget provided regularly, an in-depth analysis of service provided to determine future capital acquisitions, and an annual complete Audit by an outside audit firm. I was therefore thrown back as I reviewed the haphazard approach required of a public utility to seek a 300% increase in their rates, especially considering the fact that the utility is basically a pass through more than anything else doing the billing by reading meters of end users of their customers. The company also has other costs associated with repairs and hopefully improvements and upgrades that should be allowed, but those costs would reflect in financial statements, but those seem missing. The only things resembling a financial anything is numbered yellow sheets the are uploaded out of sequential order, some turned on their sides, and receipts for equipment and fuel not from within the service area with no justification on why these items are justified expenses. The formulas where numbers were inserted on the application, would make no sense to most anyone unless they we much more studied considering the format. The formats reminded me of how convoluted the TXDOT formats were when seeking or justifying most things.

I regret the late submission of this statement, but my wife is a CPA and yesterday was the extended tax deadline and I work at her firm during tax season. I believed that the commission would be able to see and understand that no one could reasonably ask for such a large increase and expect to actually be given that amount, and it is also reasonable to expect that entity would welcome the mediation process which usually ends with close to a 50 – 50 outcome which is still unfair in my eyes. To me, there is money actually owed to each and every customer served by Northtown Water and that would send the company into position where they could not continue as an entity and the water utility would then need to be taken over by another provider.

There appears to me after reviewing the information I have, to be less than half truths or financials that I could rely on to give an honest opinion to approve such an increase (300%) and if the company expects to continue doing business, they need to develop bookkeeping skills so that someone could at least see a profit and loss, or even a balance sheet.

I therefore cannot see how this can be justified in part or in whole.

Timothy F. Barnebee

215