

Emery Town Water information Meeting

Wednesday April 22, 2024

7:00pm Emery Town Rec Center

Town Council Members Present: Mayor Jack Funk, Patrick Sundstrom, Melissa Durfey, Kim Hansen, Mistie Christiansen

Multiple citizens were present in person and on zoom.

Mayor Funk called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm. He thanked the audience for their attendance and attention to this urgent matter. He noted that we are all aware of the dire situation of our water supply. He explained the demands of the town culinary system and the secondary system. He noted that the town had 181.5 shares of a canal company that has around 5600 shares giving the town roughly 3% of the flow of the canal. That three percent equates to approximately 71 gpm at the average rate the canal has been flowing. The culinary system when in water plant is in operation pulls almost 300 gpm. He noted that the canal company has been making sure that the culinary plant is still operating.

He also noted that over the weekend the secondary system had used around 5 acre feet and at peak flow was also pulling over 300 gpm- taking the total town usage to almost 600 gpm. He expressed his concern that flows of that rate were not sustainable. He also expressed that the whole canal company was taking cuts of 94% and the town needs to do the same. He informed the audience that the secondary water would be turned off. He encouraged people to be wise with their water, noting ways to try to keep trees and bushes alive. He encouraged citizens to research what water was needed to keep plants alive and be creative.

Patrick Sundstrom commented that he had just one question and he wanted to know if Julius Reservoir storage would be kept intact. The mayor indicated that control of the reservoirs and canal was the responsibility of the canal board to represent all the shareholders but that the canal board had assured them that culinary needs of the town would be met if any needs were met.

Patrick asked if any canal board members were present. It was noted that Mistie Christiansen, Kris Payne and Mike Christensen were in attendance. He asked his question again. Mistie offered to speak for the canal board. She noted that Julius Reservoir would be opened under careful supervision. Patrick said that was all he needed to know and left the meeting. Mistie continued that Larsen's Reservoir held 120 acre feet of storage and would be enough to supply culinary needs of the town for 6-8 months if the town was wise.

Larsen's Reservoir would be held until the canal company could tell that Julius would fill back to the 120 acre feet or more of capacity and be sufficient to meet the needs of the town through the winter.

Russell Odle asked how the water in Julius would be managed and how much would be turned out at once. Mistie replied the canal board had every intention to release wisely and under close supervision, in an effort to make the most use of the water. Mistie encouraged everyone to be water wise and some ways to conserve water were noted.

Glenys Sitterud asked how much water was being used by the coal mine. The answer was not readily available. She noted that the coal mine used to send people home to shower and could still do that. Mayor Funk noted that all businesses and citizens would have to look at ways to conserve.

Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance.