

SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 2009

A special meeting of the Mannington City Council with Mayor Bob Garcia presiding was held Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Jeff Michael, Harry Moore, Larry Smith, Terry Starsick, and Rana Taylor.

The sole purpose of the meeting was to meet with Jim Weimer of the WV Public Service Commission. Weimer introduced himself and said he requested the meeting when he heard about Monday's special meeting in which the decision to go with Fairmont's water was tabled. Weimer said he was concerned when he heard that decision because if that stands, the PSC would be forced to enforce the contract between Fairmont & Mannington and that would put Mannington in a jeopardy situation. He had a copy of the report on Fairmont's water system that was discussed at Monday's rate hearing and said anyone present could review it. He said Fairmont was severely underfunded in all classes and the decision on their rates was cost-based only. Weimer also said that Fairmont's plant improvement costs will be distributed evenly among all class of customers. However, 95% of Fairmont's infrastructure costs will be borne by Fairmont customers not the resale customers. He added that their filter membranes meet all the necessary requirements and are much safer and produce higher quality water. Recent brown water complaints were discussed and Weimer said that is common when you mix waters with different Ph levels. He said Fairmont will provide up to three million gallons to flush the system at no charge. Garcia asked what happens if Fairmont cannot supply Mannington's water demand. Weimer said it is a probability but not a possibility that Fairmont cannot supply the water. Council at Large Taylor said there was some concern about fire coverage once we begin accepting Fairmont's water. Weimer said that is not a problem since Fairmont can produce much more water per minute than Mannington's plant. Finally, Weimer said that Fairmont has applied for \$4,000,000 in

stimulus money and if that comes in, then the resale rate will be decreased.

Fluharty asked if the city should apply for an emergency rate increase since Mannington PSD has already filed a protest with the PSC. Weimer said the city attorney should file for an immediate interim rate as soon as possible.

The meter readings were discussed. Weimer said Fairmont will read the meters but those readings will go to Mannington's garage daily. He said the meters are to be tested yearly.

Mayor Garcia thanked Weimer for coming. Weimer asked if Monday's decision by City Council still stands and Garcia said the motion would be rescinded at the next regular meeting.

Moore made the motion to adjourn. Smith seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.