

Town of Fifty Six  
Home of Blanchard Springs  
6564 Hwy. 14 Fifty Six, AR  
(870)757-2225

Mayor: Earnestine McDaniel

Recorder/Treasurer: Christina Byrd

Special Town Meeting with Big Flat  
February 27, 2025

Members present were Aaron Byrd, Rick VanEvera, and Lisa VanEvera  
Visitors present were Big Flat Mayor, Big Flat Water Superintendent, and 4  
Big Flat council members

Other visitors were Delvin Freeman, Lori Freeze, Linda Baca, Rebecca  
Ferguson, Mike and Judy Balentine, Tim Hudspeth, Richard Wible, Scott  
Wible, Kirby and Lora Curtis

Meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Mayor Earnestine  
McDaniel.

The discussion was trying to come to an agreement on setting a fair water  
rate for Big Flat.

It was said that raising the rate now, will not include raising it when  
Mountain View raises their rates. The Mountain View raise will be passed  
on to all customers including Big Flat.

Aaron Byrd said he would like to charge Big Flat a monthly fee of \$145 a  
month plus usage. Rick VanEvera agreed with this. Rick VanEvera offered  
that if Big Flat pays the \$145 a month Fifty Six will keep their price for  
water at \$5 per thousand. Big Flat expressed that is not a reasonable option  
that they are willing to consider.

Lisa VanEvera asked how many customers Big Flat has. She was told 182  
customers.

Fifty Six lawyer, Shannon Breese, advised Fifty Six to take in consideration  
the cost of maintenance when trying to find a reasonable price.

Lisa VanEvera said the \$145 a month would cost Big Flat residents \$1.25  
per customer per month.

Lisa VanEvera brought up that Fifty Six council was told Big Flat was  
supposed to go in half with the Town on the total project of connecting to  
Mountain View. Big Flat Mayor, Glenda Wiseman, said Big Flat did not  
agree to that. Big Flat agreed to look into the pros and cons of connecting  
and decided it was not in their best interest.

Lawyer, Shannon Breese, said the former agreement between Fifty Six and Big Flat is extremely vague. Rick VanEvera expressed great concern that the new agreement be drawn up correctly and more accurately.

Aaron Byrd suggested a price of \$6.25 per thousand. Big Flat Water Superintendent, Rich Hiter, said there are laws preventing water rates from being raised more than 50% in 1 year. Fifty Six Council stated that \$5 per thousand to \$6.25 was not 50%. Big Flat referred to the agreement of \$2 per person. The lawyer advised that the \$5 per thousand was a verbal agreement and stands.

Big Flat lawyer, Tyler Henderson, stated that the rate study states that if the price increase is more than 50% it could be spread out over 2 years. All parties agreed they also read that in the rate study. He suggested no more than 2 rate increases a year.

Lisa VanEvera made a motion to charge Big Flat \$5.32 per thousand until Mountain View raises their rates. Rick VanEvera 2<sup>nd</sup>. ALL IN FAVOR. (Fifty Six).

Rick VanEvera stated the \$5.32 is nonnegotiable.

Big Flat will meet and discuss what they want to do.

Rick VanEvera made a motion to dismiss. Lisa VanEvera 2<sup>nd</sup>. ALL IN FAVOR. (Fifty Six)

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Mayor, Earnestine McDaniel

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Recorder/Treasurer, Christina Byrd