

AMR – Automated Meter Readers

The City of Seminole currently has manual water system meters installed throughout our coverage area. We employ two people to check every meter in town every month. These meters have been in place and maintained for more than 25 years.

As these meters age, they are less likely to read correctly, and cost the City thousands in revenue. If a meter is replaced, there is usually a wide gap between what a persons water bill was before and after a new meter is installed. The reason being the old meter was incorrect for months or even years.

A small scale sample of manual meters revealed 75% of the meters tested were reading gallons incorrectly.

The company who manufactures these meters has also told us the type of meter we use is 'aging out' in favor of a more automated system. Therefore, we can no longer order this type of meter.

After an exhaustive search, there are very few companies who make replacement manual read meters, as the automated systems are becoming the norm. Due to budget constraints the City began ordering a minimal amount of automated meters as replacements on a priority basis.

When new meters were installed, it was noted that a correct amount of water usage was logged and billed. Some variances were 1-3,000 gallons, some were more than 5,000 gallons different than the manual meters. This was instrumental in reaching out for more information on automated systems.

City Staff contacted Core and Main, a company that we have routinely ordered manual meters from. We requested a cost estimate for replacing all manual read meters with automated meters.

The transition would continue to require two employees until the project is complete, then one position would be absorbed into another department so the transition would not cost any jobs.

The cost estimate for this project is \$1,397,091.00, which includes over 3,450 meters for residential, commercial and industrial sites.

We began looking for ways to fund a full scale replacement for all meters on the city water system. This is a priority for our city, since the manual meters will not longer be available to us.