



May 1, 2015

Rapid City Common Council & Mayor Kooiker
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701-5035

**Re: Rushmore Hockey Water Main Extension
Requesting Permission to Connect to the City Water Main in Old Folsom Road and
for Oversizing Reimbursement**

Dear Mayor & Council Members:

On behalf of the Rushmore Hockey & Skating Association I am requesting permission to connect to the City 12" water main along Old Folsom Road in southeast Rapid City and for the City to provide funding to cover the oversizing cost from 8" to 12". The 8" cost is estimated at \$250,799 while the 12" cost is estimated at \$329,797 which is \$78,998 for oversizing. The Rushmore Hockey Association is a non-profit 501(c)3 that provides opportunities for youth hockey from age 5 to 18.

The Rushmore Thunder finished our 2015 season in March with another Varsity Boys Championship for the second year in a row and third since 2010. Our Girls Varsity program finished second but made it to the Championship game for the first time in our history. The girls program has fielded a full team for about twelve years and finished third in junior varsity. The Thunder also collected a Bantam A state championship this year and many other tournament wins by other ages from Squirts, Peewees and Junior Varsity programs. We are also proud to offer opportunities for the Boys Club and recreational hockey in our House program.

We hold tournaments and games every weekend from November to March bringing thousands of and players and fans to Rapid City. These fans stay in Rapid City hotels, shop and eat at restaurants during our local tourism offseason. We are 100% volunteer operated and funded by our members with generous support from our local business sponsors.

Our teams have had success, but we are also growing with over 360 skaters and we are projected to have more teams and more skaters each year. Our Board has endorsed moving forward with connection to City water and to expand our locker rooms as we are bursting at the seams in our facility.



The facility requires about 60,000 gallons in water each month for ice making, concessions, restrooms and cleaning. The well that provides water to the facility has an iron content of 4.5 mg/l which is 15-20 times the secondary limit established by EPA. The iron is devastating our equipment, including the zam, water lines, ice compressors, toilets and water fixtures. Our water is not consumed and we have red sinks and toilets. We must haul drinking water and pay for bottled water for players. The zam is plugged with iron every two weeks and we will spend thousands on water heaters and compressors.

The facility does have a bag filter but it only removes a small amount of iron and needs to be replaced every seven days. The City water will also allow us to utilize the fire sprinkler system that is currently not operational. We plan to make upgrades to the sprinkler system with this connection to the City water main.

There are treatment alternatives at a cost of \$200,000 and would require a building addition. The ongoing annual maintenance would be high and requires salt, power and a high level of operations by a Certified Water Operator and this option has been eliminated from consideration.

We are currently fundraising for this project and would like to complete the project by the fall of 2015 for the upcoming season. The community supported our Kraft Hockeyville application and we will receive \$20,000 for those efforts. We are working on other funding sources, but to allow this project to be completed this year the Rushmore Hockey Association would like to request a total of \$200,000 from the City to complete the 12" water main. Thank you for your consideration.

We appreciate your interest in our situation and I believe the RHA Building Committee is planning properly with the addition of new locker rooms and water line which provide additional opportunities for youth in our community. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to tour the Thunderdome.

Sincerely,
AE2S

Ted Schultz, PE
Operations Manager for AE2S and Facility Manager for the Rushmore Thunderdome

cc: Morgan Gagliano, City of Rapid City
Keith Johnson, City of Rapid City





