

Minutes of Perrysburg Public Utilities Committee

Meeting Held March 22, 2023

CALL TO ORDER - 6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Kevin Fuller.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members present were Kevin Fuller, Jan Materni, and Jonathan Smith. Also present were Brian Thomas, City Engineer, and Matt Choma, Director of Public Utilities.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Mr. Fuller stated that Melissa Davis, 26393 Windy Trace Drive, emailed him this afternoon in regards to a water driven sump pump that failed. Ms. Davis was charged for the water and sewer, and wanted to know if she could get a credit for the sewer portion. Mr. Fuller asked how it works since they just moved into this home in September 2022. Mr. Choma stated that they have to look at a twelve month period and will occasionally scale back to a six month period. He added that, unfortunately, they do not have any basis on which to look at their usage. Mr. Choma noted that she will get a credit and they will work with her, potentially on a payment plan.

APPROVAL OF 02/22/2023 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the February 22, 2023 meeting were approved 3-0.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

Mr. Choma stated that there are a total of six sewer credits, totaling \$1,603.76. Four of the credits are for sump pumps and two of the credits are for hoses left on. Mr. Choma noted that with broken sump pumps, the City requests documentation from the resident that a repair took place, so they are not back the following month with the same issue. He added that with the broken equipment, the residents all provided documentation that their sump pumps have been fixed.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Mr. Choma explained that they are going to make a push for backflow prevention and, as the purveyor of water, it is their responsibility that the water is healthy for all of the residents to consume. Mr. Choma stated that their first push is to have commercial properties with backflow and every year they will be required to have a test done. Mr. Smith asked about the issues Bryan, Ohio had with their water treatment plant. Mr. Choma explained that there was a valve fail at their treatment plant and they no longer had the ability to send water out into the system.

MAUMEE RIVER TMDL UPDATE

Mr. Choma stated that this is an effort by the EPA to put everybody who is discharging into the Maumee River into a general permit. He explained anyone in the Maumee Watershed has to control phosphorus discharges to the Maumee River. Mr. Choma stated that we are in good shape and our phosphorus limits are low because we are mostly a residential community. Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana are involved in this effort by the EPA.

OEPA DIVISION OF DRINKING AND GROUNDWATER TRIANNUAL SANITARY SURVEY

Mr. Choma explained that every three years, the EPA goes around to various water purveyors and does an evaluation of their system. Perrysburg's was conducted recently and we passed. There were three violations, which have all been corrected.

WPC PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Choma explained that they are ramping up their efforts at the waste water plant for the biological removal of phosphorus, working with the EPA and a consultant. He added that so far the results have been great. Ms. Materni stated that she is irritated that the Ohio EPA is cracking down on municipalities for phosphorous, when we are not one of the worst contributors to it. She added that we should be held accountable, but fertilizer and factory farms are a bigger pollution source.

LEAD SERVICE IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM WITH OTHER WOOD COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Choma noted that the Wood County Commissioners are helping to identify potential lead services in Wood County. He shared a map of properties with water service connections from 1955 or earlier serviced by the City of Perrysburg. Mr. Choma explained that 480 homes will be part of that project. There are a total of 1,550 homes that are represented on the map and they will look towards the balance of those homes with their own crews.

GETTING SPECS ON EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - FIRST UP FOR 2023 IS A NEW EXCAVATOR

Mr. Choma stated that they have budgeted for this year some equipment for the utilities' operations, including a new excavator. He explained that they have been able to do a lot of ditch cleaning lately, as part of their workflow, and have found that the equipment they have is undersized and, as a result, have to rent a lot of equipment. Ms. Materni asked about the Service department going in on this with them, since ditch maintenance is shared. Mr. Choma stated that they will not ask for them to go in on this with them, but they will have a clear line of what department handles which part of ditch maintenance. He added that Public Utilities will clean it out and Service will mow it.

PROPOSAL OF A SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION TO ELIMINATE THE BROOKHAVEN PUMP STATION

Mr. Choma stated this is involved with the SICR, Sewer Infrastructure Cost Recovery, that they do annually. Mr. Smith asked about the potential houses and how that will work if repairs need to be done. Mr. Choma stated that the plat layout they are seeing has been changed and the lot will be sacrificed and remain open for this purpose. Mr. Smith noted that Brookhaven has had issues with waterflow for years, with water backing up into the basements. Mr. Choma responded that it is actually one of the keypoints why the City wants to do this because it is currently undersized to serve the community that it is serving right now.

UPDATE OF THE INTEGRATE PLAN PROGRESS

Mr. Choma stated that they are into data gathering right now, with all of the flow monitors and rain gauges in place. With this project, they are seeing how the system is affected by a wet weather event and will identify areas that are sources where clean water is getting in. Mr. Choma stated that originally they were supposed to do four months of flow monitoring, but the EPA wants to see a full year of monitoring. Mr. Choma noted that this will delay everything by at least eight months. Mr. Fuller asked about any types of grants that are in place for residents to be reimbursed. Mr. Choma responded that there is not, but suggested a back flow preventer to help. Mr. Fuller asked what the best way is for residents to get information about the homeowners grant. Mr. Choma responded that all of the information is online and they are encouraged to reach out to the Public Utilities office. He also noted that the 577 Foundation has a video on their website to help spread the word about this and the whole process behind it.

PURCHASE OF FRONT END LOADER FOR WPC

Mr. Thomas explained that this is for a John Deere 344L Compact Wheel Loader for the Perrysburg Water Pollution Control Division. He explained that the one they have now is used for biosolids and the new one can be used for other things, as well as helping to make the work go quicker. Mr. Smith asked about the difference in prices from the two quotes. Mr. Thomas noted that it was a significant difference, but does not have the other quote with him currently. Mr. Fuller asked if this will be used daily. Mr. Choma responded it will not be daily, but it will be used regularly. Mr. Thomas noted that there are other attachments, so it can be used more often and more effectively in the future. There being no objections, this is being recommended 3-0 to City Council.

PURCHASE OF AMI HARDWARE

Mr. Thomas explained that the City is moving forward with updating how they collect meter readings and this is for the purchase of additional equipment for phase two, with phase one already complete. There will be a number of Data Collection Units, DCU, around the City and the meters from the individual homes will go to the closest DCU and will be sent to billing. Mr. Thomas stated that the advantage of this is that they can get readings daily and they can notify property owners if there is a spike in usage, which should help with sewer credits in the future. Mr. Fuller asked if this covers just the purchase of these. Mr. Choma stated that installation will be by the vendor and this cost covers that too. This will be an annual subscription. Mr. Smith noted that we can avoid

issues, such as the one with Ms. Davis, with this. There being no objections, this is being recommended 3-0 to City Council.

WATER MAIN CHANGE ORDER

Mr. Thomas explained that this is for an agreement with Arcadis U.S. Inc. for the design of the 2021 water main replacement project, in an amount not to exceed \$23,400.00. This will expand the project to include the design of the sanitary sewer replacement, so it can be done all at once. Mr. Smith stated that it is a smart thing to do it all at once. This is for some of the alleyways between Indiana Avenue, Fifth Street, and Sixth Street. There being no objections, this is being recommended 3-0 to City Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Materni asked about the Grassy Creek problem and if we have thought about partnering with Perrysburg Township and Rossford, since it goes that way. Mr. Choma agreed that we have to work together and that is why it is a regional approach. Mr. Choma added that they can only control what is in their municipal boundaries and within the right of way.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Fuller, Chairperson
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 26, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.