

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chairman Jonathan Smith. Committee members present were Haraz N. Ghanbari, Jonathan Smith, and Barry VanHoozen. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Laura Alkire, Law Director, and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

SEWER CREDITS

The Committee reviewed and agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the following sewer credits based on water consumption that did not enter the sanitary sewer system:

Kirk Holmes, 376 Blue Jacket Road, \$1,514.68

John Kurfess, 13040 Five Point Road, \$1,587.24

Timothy Slawinski, 26609 Greenville Drive, \$5,842.21

Jon Modene/Jospeh Ponzio, 9724 Bishopswood Lane, \$545.28

FORT MEIGS ROAD DITCH

Julie Thomas of CT Consultants presented the Committee with a letter of findings regarding the topographic survey the prepared of Fort Meigs Road ditch. The Committee reviewed the survey drawing provided by CT Consultants. Ms. Thomas said that they are concerned that continued ditch bank slope movement will eventually affect the stability of Fort Meigs Road, so they are recommending that a geotechnical engineer be consulted to determine the cause of the bank slides prior to moving forward with any bank repairs. She said that bottom dipping can create more stability issues, so they recommend soil testing before proceeding. Mr. Ghanbari asked if her firm performs those services, and Ms. Thomas said they do not. Ms. Thomas said that in her opinion there are not any areas that seem bad enough that it is worth going in to clean it out and risk destabilizing it more. Mr. Smith asked if the fence could be replaced. Ms. Thomas said that she does not feel replacing the fence will create more instability. The Committee discussed how to proceed and agreed 3-0 to recommend putting in a split rail fence, which is what was there before, as a temporary fix. Ms. Kabat said that the fence could always be repurposed, and she said that she will ask Mr. Eckel to get updated pricing. Mr. VanHoozen asked that the Administration also investigate what right-of-way is available on the other side of the road.

WATER OPTIONS UPDATE

Ms. Kabat distributed information to the Committee that was prepared by the City of Toledo showing the rates charged by Toledo and the cost to the customer for each entity. She said it also shows what items the retail side would pay for that the wholesale side would not. Ms. Kabat said that Toledo currently has four rate tiers and that would be compressed to two tiers, with only the extremely large customers reaching the second tier. She said that Toledo assumed that Maumee, Perrysburg, and the Northwestern

Water and Sewer District would continue with our current contracts until they expire. However, if we continue with our current contract, there is no cap on the rate increases, and we would not have a seat on the board until the contract expires. We asked that they redo the table to show as if we joined the unified contract from day one with a seat at the table. She said that the numbers are a little larger at the beginning but drop below the rates with the projected increases under our current contract. Ms. Alkire said that the draft contract the technical and legal group came up with has not gone to the Toledo Law Department yet. The contract contains some items to trigger Toledo City Council to follow the rate recommendations of the water authority. The draft contract also guarantees high quality water and would be for forty years as opposed to the twenty years proposed by Toledo. Ms. Kabat said that we are also working with Maumee and the District to look at Bowling Green water. She noted that the 2018 report prepared for the Wood County Economic Development Commission indicates a rate of \$44.81 per 1000 cubic feet from day one with no seat at the table. Mr. Smith asked if the recent election in Toledo about Lake Erie Bill of Rights would have any impact on this issue. Ms. Alkire said that there is no easy answer, but she feels it will be tied up legally for a long time, and she does not think it will impact Toledo's intake. Mr. Ghanbari asked why the District is no longer authorizing funds for studies of the Michindoh Aquifer. Ms. Kabat said that she is not sure why, and the Administration is checking into exactly what Maumee and Sylvania approved funds for. She said that we currently have funds with Henry County that have not been expended, and we would have to authorize it before they spend more of our money.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Alkire stated that the contract for gas aggregation for city residents is expiring soon. Volunteer has offered a renewal rate that is 11% under the Columbia Gas rate. This does not need to come before City Council, and part of the contract requires customer notification that they can opt out if they choose to do so.

There was a brief discussion about the Grassy Creek Open House that was held on February 20.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.