

Minutes of Perrysburg Public Utilities Committee

Meeting Held October 25, 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. Committee member Jonathan Smith left the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Also present were Tim Effler, Law Director, Matt Choma, Director of Public Utilities, and Brian Homer, Field Operations Superintendent.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Kalyan Jagarlamudi, 108 Brunswick Court, explained that he had a new irrigation system installed in early August and then in September he received a water bill in the amount of \$2,408.00. Mr. Jagarlamudi spoke with Mr. Choma and was told to approach City Council to seek some remediation in this matter. It has been a huge financial burden and he was hoping to rescind some of the sewer charges, since most of the water was only used to water the lawn. Mr. Choma explained that they unfortunately do not have twelve months of history to look back on and cannot grant a sewer credit based on one month of history. Mr. Fuller asked if it would be okay with Mr. Jagarlamudi to wait the twelve months and he agreed that he could wait. Mr. Jagarlamudi appreciates any assistance and noted that Mr. Choma has been very helpful.

Philip Dombey, 110 West Second Street, spoke to Mr. Smith and brought some documentation from Beaverson Excavating. He discovered a septic tank that was not supposed to be there, as well as a sixteen foot abandoned alley to the east of Indiana, with a catch basin and 75-100 year old trees. With the survey, he discovered that they are the City's trees, and he has spoken with Mayor Mackin. Mr. Smith suggested he speak with Administration on this. Mr. Fuller asked what Mr. Dombey was hoping to seek from the Public Utilities Committee. He was hoping to get some grant money or relief on his bill.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the September 27, 2023 meeting were approved 3-0.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

Mr. Choma presented the sanitary sewer credits. He explained that a resident is experiencing continuous water usage in her home and it came from a back up sump pump that is stuck on. There are six credits and they total \$3,199.48. Year to date the

total for sewer credits is \$15,968.31.

INTRODUCTION OF BRIAN HOMER, FIELD OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Choma introduced Mr. Homer, Field Operations Superintendent, and noted that morale has skyrocketed in the department since he started. He added that Mr. Homer steered the department away from being a reactionary group to one that is working on proactively monitoring the system the way it is supposed to. Mr. Homer stated that when he began, the division was an emergency division. They have a hydrant maintenance program and 98% of the hydrants in the City were painted this year. Mr. Homer has pushed the ditch cleaning program and they have been very successful with it. He created a stock room at the Department of Public Utilities, so that they are able to order things in bulk, saving them last minute costs. The Committee members all thanked Mr. Homer for sharing.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF WHITEFORD KENWORTH T480 DUMP TRUCK VIA SOURCEWELL

Mr. Choma explained that they are requesting permission to purchase a 2024 Kenworth T480 Dump Truck in the amount of \$198,598.12. This is not a replacement; it is an additional vehicle. Mr. Smith left the meeting at 7:10 p.m. There being no objections, this is being recommended 3-0 to City Council.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A JOHN DEERE EXCAVATOR VIA SOURCEWELL

Mr. Choma stated that this resolution would authorize the purchase of a 2024 John Deere 85 P-Tier Excavator, in the amount of \$166,431.82, from Murphy Tractor and Equipment Co. This is a larger excavator than the one they have right now and will give more capability for their ditch maintenance. There being no objections, this is being recommended 2-0 to City Council.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A TOWMASTER TRAILER VIA SOURCEWELL

Mr. Choma explained that this Towmaster T-50LP trailer would be used to haul the above mentioned John Deere Excavator. The cost is \$48,168.69 from Murphy Tractor and Equipment Co. There being no objections, this is being recommended 2-0 to City Council.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 2024 BUDGET

Mr. Choma explained that they purchased pickup trucks recently and would like to purchase two more next year. They are also hoping to hire two new employees for positions of foremen. The additional trucks would be dedicated to those individuals. The Watermill Phase 1 Design is for the cleaning out of ditches and creeks behind the properties in the Watermill neighborhood. Mr. Fuller noted that campus design and the Fort Meigs ditch are being removed for now to allow for Administration to define the scope of those projects.

Mr. Choma stated that they are looking at salaries and fringe benefits increases, which are plugged in by the Finance Department. He brought attention to the purchase of water expense line, and that it is going up over 10%. Mr. Choma added that they need to raise water rates to keep up with those costs.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

DFFO

Mr. Choma explained that DFFO is the Director's Final Findings and Orders from the Ohio EPA. The results of this will help them determine how to eliminate it, as well as conduct a sanitary sewer evaluation survey and go through the entirety of their system. There would be a sewer rate increase. Mr. Effler added that they will not have any idea of the overall project costs associated with it until they get through the first steps, including flow monitoring and long term monitoring.

Effect on Future Water and Sewer Rates

Mr. Choma added that he would like to get Committee members some real numbers, after talking with the rate consultants.

Stormwater Utility

Mr. Choma stated that historically, stormwater work has been funded out of the sanitary sewer fund. They are looking at, with the feasibility study, what stormwater management costs and how to pay for continued maintenance of the City's system.

Establish a Utilities Board

Mr. Choma stated that a Utilities Board is something to consider. Mr. Fawcett had previously provided information on how the Utilities Board worked in Bowling Green. Mr. Fuller is in support of this.

Dedicated Grant Writer

Mr. Choma stated that there are grants out there, but there are certain things he is not familiar with when finding grant opportunities. He suggested someone City wide. Mr. Fuller added that the position would more than pay for itself.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Fuller, Chairperson
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.