

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
Tuesday April 26, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Public Works held on April 26, 2022 at 7:30 a.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 405 Jefferson Street, Washington, Missouri. The following were present/absent:

MEMBERS:

Chairman	John Vietmeier	Absent
Vice Chairman	Brad Mitchell	Present
Secretary	Mike Radetic	Present
Member	Steve Richardson	Present
Ex-officio Member	Steve Strubberg	Present
Ex-officio Member	Vacant	

OTHERS:

Council Representative	Mike Coulter	Present
Council Representative	Mark Wessels	Present
Mayor	James Hagedorn	Present
City Administrator	Darren Lamb	Present
Water/Wastewater Superintendent	Kevin Quaethem	Present
Water/Wastewater Admin. Asst.	Sarah Skeen	Present
Public Works Director	John Nilges	Present
Assistant City Engineer	Andrea Lueken	Absent
Waste Water Foreman	Kerry Duke	Present
Water Foreman	Chad Alfermann	Present

Originals and/or copies of agenda items of the meeting, including recorded votes are available on record in the office of the Public Works Department for one year. Video/DVD and audio tapes are kept only until the minutes have been approved for the meeting. DVD copies of this meeting are distributed to Board Members if requested.

Minutes

A motion made by Mr. Radetic and seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held March 22, 2022 meeting. The motion passed without dissent.

Priority Items

There are no priority items.

Wastewater

Approval to make payment to Wayde's Equipment for the purchase of a farm tractor. This is for the treatment plant to hook to the spreader to spread our sludge. In the past, we leased one; then we hauled to landfill, which worked but did not work efficiently. For the last few years, we have been swapping with the street department but when we needed it to spread sludge they needed it to cut weeds and the right of ways around town. We went out for bids and Kubota was the lowest bid. The budgeted amount was \$83,000.00. A motion made by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the payment. The motion passed without dissent.

Our treatment plant was built in 2009. Now we are starting to have equipment breakdown. We are having a VFD (variable frequency drive) issue. There are 22 of them and they are starting to go out. We just had our second one go out this year. This is for our disc aerators that keeps the sewage flowing in the vertical loop reactors in a circular motion and adds air to them. The last one that went out, which was a couple of months ago, cost \$4,753.00. With the way prices have gone up, we could add 10-20% to the next VFD and the delivery times are 14-20 weeks. These are going to start going out and at \$5-6 thousand dollars for every one that is going to go out, that is a big chunk of money. We are going to have to raise sewer rates. We are not going to be able to keep going at this pace with all the equipment going out. There is value in ordering multiples at one time but with the demand and the turn around, no one is offering multiple purchases right now. In hindsight we should have been buying one every year but it is not something you think about until they start going out. We are replacing them with ABB's, which is still an Allen Bradley product but just a step down. They are good pieces of equipment but they only last so long. We do budget one replacement every year but now the cost has gone up so much and, instead of one going out, we have two and maybe three before the end of the year.

2015 was the last time the sewer rates were raised. Sewage rates are based upon the number of gallons that are used. There are two components; there is also a user fee regardless of the how many gallons are used. It is a smart way to do things because revenue is coming in and it is not dependent on usage. It is not as complex as water rates. In addition, water rates have a CPI (consumer price index) escalator on them each year, which is high right now. After talking to Darren, we need to look at adding that on there so that we are not constantly playing catch up in the future. Compared to communities our size we are in the lowest three in water rates, so we are aggressive about keeping our water rates low. Sewer rates were similar to that, but we need to check on that. 2 years ago, we implemented new water rates. This year was the first escalator on the rates. We increased by 6%. This upcoming year we anticipate that it will be even higher. When you look at pipe costs, they increased by 200%. Pipe costs for the project on Southpoint road went up 280%. The strategy to use sale tax to take care of the most important component of your city is not the best strategy. The user rates need to take care of those things.

Connection fees were looked at recently and they are competitive compared to the Metropolitan Sewer District. Connection fees vary on whatever the agreement was on with the water and sewer districts. We have two different agreements. For example, PWSD#1, which is Krakow water district, has their own agreement with the city because we treat their sewage and they pay us for that. There is also a bulk sewage treatment agreement that get charged a different connection fee.

Sewer extension to the east have been looked at and there are treatment plants in some of those developments that are approaching their shelf life. These subdivisions are going to have to decide whether to annex into the city. They may be looking at our systems as being more cost effective to build out to the east and hook that up. A typical treatment plant is 20-25 years. Also, DNR regulations are changing constantly and those entities have to invest back into their treatment plant or look for other options. That is why Meadow Lake residents are citizens of the City of Washington now. Emerald City off Hwy A, had a plant was at its life and to rebuild it to DNR standards, it was more cost effective to put in a pump station and send it to us rather than spend the money to rehab that or build a new one. We are going to start seeing that the regulations DNR is putting out, such as the Clean Water Act, is going to force the communities or subdivisions to come to us if they can, because of the cost.

Good news is that the new stuff that is going in the ground, plastic pipe, is not going to have the same issues as the clay pipes have. We are also investing in slip lining and the brick manholes, and the plan is to continue this aggressive approach. Capital permit sales tax kicks in next year to add more money into the slip lining projects. Within the next 4-5 years the vast majority of the downtown, stuff built before 1980, should be slip lined. The new stuff has a much longer shelf life. In 3 months, we should be coming back with sewer fee changes. Whether it is the treatment plant or wells, we need to try to get to the point where we are self-sustaining so that we have money to do those extra projects that come up.

Water

Approval to make payment for the purchase of a skid loader that plays into the treatment plant. It takes two pieces of equipment to remove sludge from the treatment plant and spread it. It takes a loader at the treatment plant to load the dump truck that gets taken to the field and then we need something at the field to load into the spreader. The skid loader at public works has a few more years of life so we purchased a new skid loader for public works and we are taking the current skid loader down to the treatment plant. It is more cost effective to do it that way than to drive back and forth with the loader. A motion made by Mr. Radetic and seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the payment. The motion passed without dissent.

Approval to make payment to Cochran Engineering for the Enduro Water Tower. A motion made by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the payment. The motion passed without dissent.

Approval to make payment to Worldwide Industries for Enduro water tower. It is completed, online, blue, and has the city of Washington name on it. This is a new company and this is the first time that we worked with them. They did Clay Street and fixed up all the damage to the yard, they did a great job with that. We are holding back \$110,000. They still have to put the mixing system in Clay Street. They will come back in September and put the mixing system back in. A motion made by Mr. Radetic and seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the payment. The motion passed without dissent.

The Stonecrest leak was due to the corrosion of bolts on the top of the valve and on the flange. This is the first time we have seen bolts on the top of a valve corrode off. This could start happening a lot more out there. There are theories as to why this occurred; it could be acidic ground, bad batch of iron, could have used a different grade of steel. That was put in 2006, and although it is not new, you would think it would last longer than 16 year. When you look at the downtown area,

we have 150 and 160 year old pipes down there and the bolts have not corroded off those valves. Stonecrest started in the late 90's and we have Phase 1 and Phase 2 that might run into that issue again. There are about 50 valves up there and so far, we have had two similar problems. It is the cost of repairing these things, which we have to keep in mind. This then created the whole issue of the over pressuring at Stonecrest. The guys did a great job of responding.

We have water system repair and maintenance that we budget for \$7000. We have equipment repair and maintenance on the water side and well pump repair and maintenance. We anticipate from previous years what the cost is going to be. It is just that with this year with costs going up, the budget is being hit pretty hard. Moving into the future, we are looking at adding 20-25%. We do a rate review using the 10 year budget for the large capital items and then the smaller items get a 3-4% CPI estimate.

Other

How much does the new building on rabbit trail and downtown impact the infrastructure?

The real concerns are the sanitary to make sure you have capacity on those things. The peak comes in when you have rain events. Keeping the storm water out of the sanitary helps that as well. It is really no different than the treatment plant, which runs on average 2.9 million gallons a day. You see these spikes during rain events. If you can mitigate those spikes by investing on the upstream side, you really start to get some capacity. At the end of the day, you are getting that capacity back for the future. The average home is 300 gallons per day. Treatment plant has about 8000 people that can be added before you have to start looking at another treatment plant. It is the individual pipe systems that you have to be concerned about. You only start seeing issues during rain events and you need to start solving that on the front end rather than the back end.

Everything goes to the lowest bidder and often times the lowest bidder comes from overseas. They don't make things like they use to, they don't make them to last. My concern is that are we looking at spare parts or are we looking at additional vendors?

AWWA standards governs all equipment built for the water industry. We look for that when we go out for bids for materials. All five of the vendors are specified to follow the AWWA standards. We buy as much American as we can but sometimes American is not available. The risk of things happening is higher because the city is bigger. On the sewer side, you have things in the system that were not there 10-15 years ago. Wipes are an ongoing problem. You solve it the best you can by slip lining sewer lines and by lining manholes.

When you use federal money (grants) you have to use the lowest bidder and it is very difficult to kick a low bid off a contract. There is not currently a list of contractors that we do not use. Even if the city had a problem with a contractor, if you are using those federal dollars, you are going to have to make a strong case for that. You do not have much discretion over that at the local level.

Old Business

None

Next Scheduled Meeting Date

The next scheduled meeting date is Tuesday May 24, 2022.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned on a motion by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Radetic. All in favor aye, those oppose, none. We are adjourned.

Prepared by: Sarah Skeen
Sarah Skeen
Water/Wastewater
Administrative Assistant

Adopted and Approved by the Board of Public Works:

Date: May 24, 2022 Signature: MFLA DDS
Secretary