

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

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Public Works held on July 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	Present
Vice Chairman	Brad Mitchell	Absent
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	Duane Reed	Present
Mayor	James Hagedorn	Present
City Administrator	Darren Lamb	Present
Public Works Director	John Nilges	Present
Water/Wastewater Superintendent	Kevin Quaethem	Present
Water/Wastewater Admin. Asst.	Sarah Skeen	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. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held June 28, 2022 meeting. The motion passed without dissent.

Priority Items

None

Wastewater

Insituform is done with the slip-lining project for this budget year. I do have to say that I think we missed one payment to them. I am working with them; they are looking through their records. We do not have any record that we paid them so I assume we did not. There may be another payment once we get it all figured out.

What percent of the town has been relined? 10-20% of all sewer mains have been slip-lined so far. Most of these are located in the downtown area.

Have you projected in the budget how many more years we are going to be slip lining? Capital Improvement Sales Tax adds more money to the slip-lining program next year. There was \$500,000 allocated to that and that will happen over the next three years, over and above what we have already put into the program and over and above the storm water addition to the program. The potential is there that we could have the vast majority slip lined within the next 5 years. This is a replacement since you are literally building new pipes underneath the roadways. Every new piece of slip-lining we put in we spray line the inside of the manhole.

What do we predict the lifespan of the slip line? 75 years and you are building new pipes.

What is the average age of the pipes that we are slip-lining? These downtown lines were installed in the 50's and 40's. The way the system worked until around 1963 when we built the treatment plant at Kingsland, is that all of the sewage went to the river. It all discharged down by Olive Street and we drew our water from the Water Works Plant (downstream). Every treatment plant discharges into a stream or a river. We discharge one of the best discharge waters out of our treatment plant in the state. We are sitting in single digits on TSS's (Total Suspended Solids) and BOD's (Biochemical Oxygen Demand). We are running 7 on mg/L on TSS and 4 on BOD, which draws the oxygen out of the water and kills the fish. We are sending re-treatable water out of plant down the river for someone else to take and treat. 2.2 million gallons per day goes out to the river that we can technically re-treat here and it would be cleaner water than anybody drinking out of the Missouri River in St. Louis but you cannot sell re-treated wastewater.

The contract with Insituform has a balance, is this a multiyear contract? This is a payment balance, I think we missed one payment for this project. It is about \$101,000. We had to take some lines off that they could not do. There were some pipes that changed a little bit. Some that did not have a manhole that we could not get to. A motion was made by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the payment. The motion passed without dissent.

The Sydenstricker Nobbe 4WD Loader was a budgeted item and we are now able to make the purchase of \$83,500.00. It is a rubber tired four wheel loader for the treatment plant. It is what is loading the sludge into the dump trucks. When we purchased the new skid loader we transferred the skid loader and the trailer down to the treatment plant and we take that out to the farm fields where we stockpile the stuff. We take the spreader out there and load it out with the skid loader and then we move to another farm and we do the same thing. A motion was made by Mr.

Richardson and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the payment. The motion passed without dissent.

We started our replacement of the West Link Lift Station. We are taking the dry can system out and we are putting in submersibles right into the wet well. We are going to get started on the mechanical side of it the second week of August and should be completely finished by the end of August if we can get parts. There will be a pump sitting on the side of the road with a hose going into a manhole. We have to bypass pump while we are working on it. Other than that, everything is going pretty good.

Water

We are working on the new tower and we got a bill from Cochran for \$7,496.00. This is for their engineering services for some ground boring and this is just part of the project of the new tank. A motion was made by Mr. Radetic and seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the payment. The motion passed without dissent.

This is (a payment for) the trailer we ordered when we ordered the new skid loader. We needed two trailers as we needed to take the old trailer down to the treatment plant. We ordered this in December and we just got it in the middle of last month. The good thing about contracts is that this trailer cost more for them to build than \$15,700 but they could not ask for that money. We got lucky on that one. A motion was made by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the payment. The motion passed without dissent.

Other

There was a question brought up about the difference in the water pumped and the water treated. We pump less than what we treat. After looking into it, the numbers are right but we treat a little bit more because we bring in water from the south side from the (Public Water Supply) District in the Krakow area. That is not considered water pumped, that is just water treated so that number is always going to be different depending on how much water comes from the district. Some of it is storm water but the biggest difference is the sewage that we treat down at the plant from the Krakow area. We took on Emerald City too. That all goes through one flow meter at the district and the city sewer line that they read and we verify. Every month they send us a read and that is how we bill those guys.

There are 38 delinquent accounts shut off for June, is that normal? Yes, we usually have 60-120. We use to have a lot more than that but we have gotten more aggressive, and they can pay online but we are finding that we run into 5-10 that we cannot find, or there isn't a curb stop or there is a car parked on the curbside. 38 is low, average has been 75-80, which means that what we went through last year is actually working. We amended how long people have to pay. We increased it to 45 days before you would get shut off, we increased the reconnect fee, and we extended the hours for the guys to turn water back on for late payments. We adjusted the payment agreement plan that we had in place and stretched out the amount of time that they can pay that back. We went to a 6-month plan, where you paid a percentage, and you were required to do online bill pay where it was an automatic withdraw. You would pay 20% plus your new bill and if you are delinquent within that time then you would get shut off. We have not gotten an order to shut someone off that is on the plan so it is working.

Please express my thanks to the people who meet delinquent people and get shut off. That cannot be easy. Our finance people take the wrath of those people too, so please express my thank you.

It looks like a lot of people have been doing a lot of work projecting a budget for the next 10 years. Every time I call a vendor to get a budget number they will give me a number and then say you should call back in 3 weeks because the number will probably change. There is no “price is good for 30 days” anymore.

The infrastructure package that was put forth by the Feds, those dollars have not hit the market yet. That is your ARPA money; these are just dollars due to supply chain and backlog of things. That bill was passed in November 2021, understand that it is a grant process and federal grant processes are not fast. Applications on those infrastructures are open right now, just like we put in applications for the state ARPA funds. We do not even know if we are going to be awarded that until October. You have until 2024 to get that money spent or earmarked. So what you are seeing right now has nothing to do with those future dollars. We already have a shortage of things, it is just going to continue or increase.

Budgeting right now is a challenge. Take your number you had last year and add 30%. We may have another glitch in the system where we do not have enough meters to feed the houses going in. We put in the ordinance to straight pipe the houses and charge on flat rates, to bridge that gap, should meters not come available. We are a week short of running out of meters. We got lucky and a supplier found some meters that were supposed to go to another community. They were older meters so I got them at a great deal. The city supplies the meters for the builders because they are specific to the system that we have. We have to make decisions on whether to replace a leaking curbstop because the supply is so short. There are decisions being made because we do not have a stockpile of material. The company that is doing all the locates for us is having man power issues so we cannot even get our stuff located. 4 years ago we could call a locate company and have someone here in 3 hours, now it could be 3 weeks. There are broadband companies that are hitting utility lines in St. Louis County because they are not waiting for locates. They feel like the risk is worth more, so they are just boring lines in the ground without waiting for locates and utilities are getting hit along the way.

Are we ok in this year's budget? We are going to be over on some line items, but the budget overall will be close. We only buy what we need, and have tightened our belt so that we stay as close as we can. We will have to do the same thing next year. Water budget right now is \$1.7 million higher than it was last year, but we just have to work through it. The next well I have to replace; last year it cost me \$24,000, this year it could cost me \$40,000 to replace that well. The driller has promised me that he is only raising his labor rates by 3% but he gave his employees a 10% increase. It would be the materials; the motor prices have gone through the roof. I've seen pumps go from \$23,000 to \$45,000 and VFDs went from \$3,000 to \$7,000 and when you order one you are 3 months out before they are put together.

Your water fund has a CPI (consumer price index) multiplier that goes in effect every October. It's an automatic water rate increase based upon the CPI of the past year. It could be up to 10% in water rate increases to take care of some of these things. The sewer fund does not have that. It needs it and we are working on it. We will be looking at this next year. By state statute, we cannot operate in the red. We have to make sure our rates cover our operations. In addition, we have to have 25% in reserve to keep in place every year.

Old Business

None

Next Scheduled Meeting Date

The next scheduled meeting date is Tuesday August 30, 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: August 30, 2022 Signature: [Signature] DDS
Secretary

