

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Tuesday February 28, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Public Works held on February 28, 2023 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	Present
Secretary	Mike Radetic	Present
Member	Steve Richardson	Absent
Ex-officio Member	Steve Strubberg	Absent
Ex-officio Member	Vacant	

**OTHERS:**

Council Representative	Mike Coulter	Present
Council Representative	Duane Reed	Absent
Mayor	James Hagedorn	Present
City Administrator	Darren Lamb	Absent
Public Works Director	John Nilges	Present
Public Works 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	Dylan Voss	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. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held January 24, 2023 meeting. The motion passed without dissent.

## Priority Items

None

## Wastewater

We will start with the audit that DNR conducted for our industrial monitoring. Every three years we get a major sanitary survey where they come in and look at everything that we are doing on the collection side and the wastewater side and at the plant and the industrial monitoring. Every year and a half in between that, they do an audit to make sure we are following what we are supposed to be doing. We got letters of warning, for this round, on something that I really don't like and I am going to change it. Let us go through these warnings one by one. This is just a warning; this is not a violation, and this is not a penalty. There are no fines.

Number 1 – CA monitoring equipment pertaining to getting the pH readings from the factories at the time of inspection. We always would go out to the factory and grab a sample, run it back to the lab and use our lab pH meter to test it. We have a 15-minute window to get that done. We can get from the west end of town to the treatment plant in 15 minutes. This inspector feels that that is not adequate enough and we should have a pocket pH reader. We went ahead and bought an \$250 pocket pH reader. We would have to have video evidence that we left at this time and show that we made it back to the treatment plant in 15 minutes. Not worth the argument and we went out and got the pH reader. No further action is required because we had it when he came back to do a second inspection.

We have to remember that everything rolls downhill. EPA governs all bodies. They hand down to DNR their requirements that they are supposed to govern all of us. There are certain things that they haven't pushed too hard on. The EPA is stepping down real hard on the DNR, saying this is the Clean Water Act and you are not following it the way we feel you should be following it which means your people are not following it the way they should be following it. They are getting more stringent on it. We could continue doing it the way that we have been doing it but we would have to have proof that we are making it from point A to point B in 15 minutes and it is not worth it to me, not for \$250. We now have a portable pH reader.

Number 2 – The evaluation of applicable categorical standards for CIU Shure Manufacturing. He doesn't feel that our permits are required of us to the users. The reason for that is our permits are driven off of the daily usage of the process, the water usage on the process. We took the water that came into the building off the water meter to determine the daily usage and we used that to build our permits. This inspector doesn't feel like that is accurate enough. He wants us to get daily readings and use this to generate our permits. It could change the requirements of each users permit. Knowing exactly what the flow is out of their process could loosen their requirements or strengthen their requirements. So basically, number two is that we were not using actual numbers to build our permits. When we did our permits in 2020 they were reviewed by the Industrial monitoring director at DNR and they were approved this way. Now we have a new director and new inspectors and we are doing the "this is our opinion" kind of thing. We are not violating anything, we are just not doing it the way they feel we should be doing it. They want us to measure the actual flow that is going into whatever process. M&R Plating has a new pre-treatment process at the plant that has a flow meter on it that shows how much water is actually going through that process which in return, says how much discharge is coming out. They already have that, we just haven't been using that to say how much water they were using.

The process was set up in the 70's and it was always this way. We already know they have the meters there so we are just going to start gathering information from them. It is really not a burden for the industries because in their permits they have to monitor daily flow. It's just that we are not getting that information from them and using that information. All this stuff is really easy to fix. We are already in the process of taking care of that. Gary has been meeting with the industries. I have been working with Cochran Engineering who is our engineering firm that does our industrial monitoring paperwork and permits. It is a long drawn out ordeal to do that.

Number 3 – This one says that we didn't do the sampling types. There is two different types of samples that can be drawn from the industries. It is either a composite sample or a grab sample. A grab sample is when you literally take a bottle, and you grab a sample and you go with it. A composite is when it goes through a sampler and it takes five days, and it draws a little bit and then it draws a little bit and that becomes the composite. One of our reports, I think it was M&R Plating, it wasn't written down whether it was a composite or a grab. We missed that down at the plant. He caught that and it was a letter of warning because it wasn't written down. Easy fix, from now on Gary is going to look through every page and make sure that there is either a composite or a grab. It's just another thing that they are going to have to watch for down at the plant.

Number 4 – It is what we recorded in our report for the permits is an X amount of flow daily. What we are reporting now, because we are getting more accurate numbers from M&R Plating, is a lower flow that what we say we are regulating them on. All this has to do with the flows and how we are regulating the industries for what they have to monitor for. I have to work with Cochran because we have to do a flow data analysis on every industry. That means we have to go in and see how many employees they have and put 50 gallons per day on those people. We have see what type of facilities they have, number of bathrooms and number of sinks. Or we can go to every industry, and we work with them to make sure they have a meter in their process and we use that number as the flow that they are using. That is the avenue that we are going to go down because if you don't do the calculation right, you still aren't doing it right. If you put a flow meter in, you are going to know what the flow is on the discharge. There was an A and B because A was M&R Plating and B was Shure. These are just two of the seven categorical ones. We have to do all of them.

Number 5 – As you can see there is no further action on it. When DNR came on the first visit, Shure Manufacturing didn't have a cover letter like M&R Plating, certifying that they use X amount of flow. It was in the file, but there wasn't the coversheet, it was just tucked into a sampling sheet that had the same wording. We took M&R Plating cover sheet and modified it for Shure Manufacturing and took it out to Shure Manufacturing and we said will you please sign this and add this to the file. So we will be looking at every industry to make sure we have that cover sheet. Because we didn't have the cover sheet, we had a letter of warning.

That is pretty much it on this letter of warning from DNR. I have to respond back by May 17, what you have here is what I am responding back with and with each one of them I wrote that we are working with Cochran Engineering. They will release this letter of warning and we will work through our stuff and get all the stuff into the permits. We will redo them if we have to and we will reissue them if we have to. We will make sure everything that we need is in the files for the next visit.

**Is this community based because of our size?** If a city has an industry that fits the criteria of the DNR's industrial monitoring requirements, then they have to have a permit. It is driven off of what that business is doing. We have a new one coming in and it will have a permit like M&R Plating because they do the same process. Fricks has a different permit because he is food based but because he gives us excessive BOD's and TSS's he falls into a different categorical standard but still falls under a permit. It is all driven off of the gallons of water per day used. If you use 350 gallons of water or more and your process fits that criteria, you have to have a industrial user permit.

If I gave you the 50 page report, you would see Oscar's suggestions on what we should do. We should be handing out a survey to every business in town and getting a result back on what their process is. Every business should have a questionnaire to know what they are doing. We already know what  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them are doing; they are food based. I am going to get a form put together and give it to John so that whenever a business comes into town, that form can be handed to them and they can fill it out and let us know what their process is going to be. Moving forward, it will be new industries. They are scheduled to be back in 2023 next year for our full survey. They will come in and we will start at Public Works and go over the collection side. Are we inspecting manholes? What are we doing for I&I? We are already way ahead of the game on that because we have already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on slip lining to eliminate that. They look at our records on how we check our lift stations and we will get a report on that on the collections side. Then we will go down to the treatment plant and they'll go through all the processes at the treatment plant. Then they will end up with the industrial monitoring, which they will pick two other businesses to look at. They always give us plenty of time on that, they send a big questionnaire way ahead to make sure you have all your ducks in a row. Then in 2024 we have our water sanitary survey. They will look at all of our records, make sure we are checking our wells everyday, making sure we are following all of our disinfection. Be ready, all of them we will have a letter of warning on something. Last time, we had a little bit of rust on one of our pipes in the well building. We fix that by painting it. They have to, and they will find something. This one here was just a little bit bigger because it was the industrial monitoring side which is extremely important but still nothing bad.

If anyone has been on the east end of town, if you look at our old plant, there is a whole lot of sludge waiting to be spread. We can't get out in the fields because it is too wet. Our belt press that we press the sludge with, has been down for two weeks. The gearbox is out on it. The belt press is a 6 foot wide belt that serpentine through the machine and the sludge comes out in a liquid form out of the mixers and we add polymer to it, which is a coagulant, and as it goes through the belt press it gets squished and removes 89% of the water out of it. At the end it becomes like a cake. Been working with the manufacturer, like everything, it is extremely hard to get anything. It is going to cost a little extra, but we are going to be getting a new gear box from the factory for around \$4000.00 with a \$1000.00 expediated fee to get it done quicker or we could get it in 22 weeks. We should be pressing sludge right now; our blankets and our clarifiers are starting to rise and if they get too high they start to flow over and we get a violation on the discharge side on the plant.

We are going to rebuild the drying bed that we have right now. We just haven't gotten there yet because other things are happening so we got to juggle what we spend our money on. I think we have \$200,000 in the budget this year and the last time I went out to find out how much it would be, it came in at \$250,000. I am holding off and I am hoping that the prices will go down a little

bit and we can get it done. The bed we have now works but it's old. It's a 1963 model drying bed. The bed was designed with a filtration system with these concrete pads that you are supposed to drive on to get in there to clean everything out. They have broken up and since deteriorated and its just time for a new pad. We are going to put a concrete slab in that has a different drain system; everything is going to be sloped to the front and it will go back to our wet well. It will all be concrete with push walls. We have to do a rate increase. We can't keep operating the way we are. That is why some things are put to the side. The plant was built in 2008 and put online in 2009. There are things that are starting to go out. The VFD's for the disc aerators for the pumps are all starting to go out. I have all of our VFD's replaced. We have one on order to be a back up sitting there when the next one goes out. It is 12-18 week turnaround on those to even get them back. If we lose equipment, we lose process and we got a problem.

## Water

An invoice for Cochran Engineering for the work they have been doing getting the bids together for the Southpoint Storage tank. We should be receiving bids around mid-March. At that time, we will review them and bring them to you guys. Cochran Engineering feels like it is going to be pretty competitive. We might get some good numbers. We had a zoom conference meeting a week before last, and there were four tank builders involved in it. That means we will get some tight bids. There was some good discussion on how the design of the tank was and the tank builders brought up some ideas that could be beneficial for the city. The roof design, there were some trusses involved in the roof, the tank builders feel that Cochran can redesign the tank roof to make it more like Enduro to make it a self-supporting roof, rather than having the trusses. If you have trusses in there, that is always a point of failure, especially because we chlorinate. At any point in time, paint can chip off and then you start building rust and then you have a bigger problem. This will save money because less steel means less cost. There is mixing system going in that one, just like all the rest of them. There are several different types of mixing systems, basically it is a piece of pipe with a baffle at top that spreads the water around. It was brought up that the mixing system that was in the specs, which is called Tideflex, is a very expensive mixing system and there are new mixing systems that are a lot cheaper. We are going to evaluate that to see if we can't save some money. The tank is going to cost around \$2 million. In the mixing system alone, the tank companies are very confident in the fact that we can save at least \$100,000. Tideflex lost their patent so everyone can build what Tideflex builds so it's going to be exactly what Tideflex builds but it's going to be a different name.

A motion to pay Cochran in the amount of \$7,496.00 was made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Radetic. The motion passed without dissent.

We have a change order first, and then a final pay request. The change order for a deduct of \$573.60 to get the yard at Clay Street brought back up to what it was before they came in to paint Clay Street. If you remember when they did Clay Street it was pretty wet and they put some ruts in there. They tried to fix them when they left the first time and it wasn't adequate. I had Dylan go out for bids with Hillermann's and Town and Country. Town and Country was the lowest and so they will be fixing the yard so there is a deduct on the total amount of \$573.60 that we will use to pay for the yard work. The total of the project will be the same.

A motion to pay Worldwide Industries in the amount of \$29,101.40 was made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Radetic. The motion passed without dissent.

We are doing good, we have had some water main breaks. As we all know, the boring guys are going crazy around town. We have had some situations pop up throughout the process. Nothing really major except for yesterday, a new company came in and hit one of our water mains that was marked. They will be getting a bill for our truck time, tractor time, employee time, and overtime because the guys had to work late to do it. We will get reimbursed for that one.

**Other**

None

**Old Business**

None

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date**

The next scheduled meeting date is Tuesday March 28, 2023.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned on a motion by Mr. Mitchell 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:

March 28, 2023

Signature:

MFWA DPS

Secretary