

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

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Public Works held on March 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	Present
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 February 28, 2023, meeting. The motion passed without dissent.

## **Priority Items**

This past Saturday, Dylan Voss was on call and he was driving up East 5<sup>th</sup> Street crossing the bridge and noticed that we had a collapse of our carrier that carries the sewer main out of the Brook view subdivision down to the south side sewer. It had collapsed into the creek and separated the sewer, and it was discharging sewage into the creek. He called me and we went down and investigated it immediately and we started calling the crew in. I've got some pictures I would like to pass around for everybody to look at. We have a trestle that is laying about 18 feet down into the creek and there at Brook view. I brought these guys in so that you could see that this is the crew that fixed it. Looking at the pictures, that is working in a condition that is extremely unsafe. They showed up and it took them about four hours to get it completed, which was exceptional because that line also takes in the car wash up on top of the hill. We needed to get it fixed as fast as we could. We have a great crew working in the Water and Wastewater department for the City of Washington. They drop everything they are doing to come in whether it is a sunny Saturday working in a creek and on ladders and getting stuff dumped all over them or working at two o'clock in the morning on Christmas eve or Christmas day. They come in and they don't complain. They enjoy their jobs. They are the crew that respect the residents of the city of Washington the most. I just can't say enough about them. I am so proud of them so I wanted them to come in so you guys could see this crew that did the work that had to be done to get that back into the sewer system.

### **Do you have any idea when it collapsed?**

We didn't notice it during the week last week and we saw it on Saturday. Anytime anybody drives up 5<sup>th</sup> Street, it's a natural reaction to look over at it because you can see it from the bridge. It just happens to be that Dylan was there at the right time and saw it and we responded. The bank gave way. The way that this was designed, and I haven't found the plans yet on it, it appears that the trestle on the south side was just set on a slab that was poured on the bank there was no pier or anything keeping it up. So as the dirt sloughed, there was a cottonwood tree that gave way too, and it just went all at one time. We are going to redesign that, to make that a lot more stable. I need approval to move into emergency mode on this because we can't just leave this like this. All we need is a big storm and some heavy water through there and it could take our temporary out. We don't know how long it's going to sit there so I need to do emergency engineering on it. I was going to use Cochran Engineering. We work with them a whole lot and they have treated us really well. I don't really have time to go out through the RFQ's and all the stuff that we need. They have talent and they have engineers that do this kind of work, so I was going to start a contract with them to start working on this. We have an easement thankfully, for it all, but we will have to go through one property owner's property to get back there. I met with the property owner yesterday and explained to him what we were going to have to do. The only thing he requested, and I think that we should do, is once we build the road to get back to where we are through his property, that we take that road back out and put back in grass. I don't have a problem with that, it is a good PR thing to do. Once we get the engineering part done, it'll be a turn around to hire a contractor that has the capability of raising that out of the creek and then extending it because we are going to extend it further into the bank on both sides. The manhole on the other side, because of the way the trestle was mounted, it was mounted right to the manhole so when it shifted it kind of broke the manhole too so we have to do a little work on that side. That is minor compared to what's on the north side.

A motion made by Mr. Radetic and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the emergency repair of the Brook view sewer main. The motion passed without dissent.

I was really impressed with the guys to figure out how to get that pipe together. We've got something like 5 bends in there. The neatest part is that we have had parts on the shelf since I've been here for almost 23 years that we have never used, that actually was what we used to fix that problem, so it just happened to be that we had parts on the shelf and we were able to do it. Basically we have a big pea trap and it is working.

**Since this is sewage on the creek, is there a report that gets filed?** I don't think so, because we caught it fast enough and was able to repair it within four hours. The engineer part of it, there is a chance that we may have to submit drawings to DNR for the rebuild of it. That is why I want to use an engineering firm to do that rather than doing it in house, plus we don't have the equipment to do it.

### Wastewater

Pay request from Vandevanter for \$16,155.12 for the repair of the pump. We got the pump back and it is at the shop, and it is our back up pump for the Walnut Street Lift Station. We need to have a backup pump because that is our primary. We are just asking for approval to make a payment on it.

A motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the payment to Vandevanter in the amount of \$16,155.12. The motion passed without dissent.

An estimate from Cummins for a generator down at the treatment plant. If we lose power, it runs the whole plant. It is a vital part of the operation of the plant. If we lose power, we can't move sewage and we can't process it and then we have big problems. Cummins is our maintenance agreement company, so they do all of our repairs for us. I am just asking for approval to proceed with that \$14,178.96. The generator is 11 years old now. This is preventative maintenance. It is budgeted every year for maintenance, and this just went over a little bit more.

A motion was made by Mr. Radetic and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the work to repair the generator. The motion passed without dissent.

Everything is proceeding with Insituform. We had to go out for bids this year because we could not do the independence agreement, just with the way things are so volatile, so we went out for bids. We had two bids, Insituform came in lowest for that and we have used Insituform forever so it's a good thing. We've got a good relationship with them. They were supposed to start this week but I think it got held back a little bit but they should be starting next week. They are doing the televising part of it and then we will do the slip lining part of it. We will finalize slip lining and then I'll have the manhole lining crew come in after that and we will line all the manholes and just keep moving forward. This is process that we are going to continue to do and get everything completed as we planned.

You are funded for the next three years in the budget. Capital Improvement sales tax kicks in next year to add another \$150-180 thousand that this actually ramps up still from what we are doing now. Wastewater, historically, put \$150 thousand and stormwater basically matches that to increase that budget. Which was a new concept in 2019 and then Capital Improvement sales tax kicks in on top of that so we are running \$320 thousand right now to spend this year and that ramps up to \$500 thousand in the next two to three years.

Another thing on wastewater, two months ago, our West 5<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station had totally gone out and we had to replace it. We have just been waiting on parts and that's why that big pump has been sitting there for the last two months. The crew is here today to work on it. They think they'll have it online today if everything goes good, and we will be back to normal operations on that station. We can roll that pump out of it and I can stop paying for that. I think I almost bought a new one for how much we rented that one for. It may be something I may be bringing to you guys at some point in time, is to have one in the house. That project is moving along, and we will have that one wrapped up here today.

Everything out at the plant is working, so far. I say that cautiously because it is getting older so the sludge is still piling up because we can't get down to the fields. We were able to get some moved out to one of our spread areas because, with the department, we have the ability to store, off site, stoe sludge for 90 days. We were able to move some from the treatment plant out to one of our areas we spread. We can store it there and as soon as it dries, we will be out there. I think they might have even tried to spread some last week. We are just juggling, that is all we can do until the ground gets better. When it dries up, we can get out and start spreading. In some point in time, there might be a situation where we have to look at a different process at the plant to eliminate some of the sludge that needs to be spread. As areas grow we lose farm fields and we lose areas to spread, when that happens, we need to re-address all of this. Right now we are okay but there is a chance that we may start running out of areas to spread.

We have a draft increase on the sewer rates that we have reviewed internally so I know Kevin and Darren will be presenting that to you in the next couple of months on what that is. We decided that it would not go into effect until the next budget cycle, October 1st. The next meeting, we will start discussing that and asking for support. It is a minor increase on the service fee. There are two components to any sewer revenue. It's your service fee, your monthly minimum, and then whatever the rate is. It was not substantial. I think that we are trying to keep it in the 8-10% and then add the CPI escalator into the verbiage so you don't run into the situation in the future. The biggest thing is getting the CPI index into the actual verbiage. It's not that we have dire problems, it's just that we got to get caught up here a little bit. We will present that to you at a later date. It will look like the water increase.

## Water

A pay request to Cochran Engineering for \$3,759.69 for the work on the new South point ground water storage tank. We went out for bids, we got our bids back, we have our engineer, we have our tank, which you guys have all seen that. The notice to proceed was issued last Friday. The tank builder has to go out and acquire steel so it's a race because every tank builder is acquiring steel from the steel manufacturers. We don't have any idea of what that outcome is yet. We will let you know as it goes on and then the sitework will begin somewhere after we get a point of steel delivery. The goal is to have it done by the end of November. There is a caveat on it, if they cannot get it painted by November we are going to hold off and we will paint it in the spring and put it online. Any painting after November you could have a possible paint failure and if you have a paint failure then you have a million gallons of water in the air and then we have to dump back on the ground. The tank is out there because we need it, but it is not a dire necessity. If it's not done by then we can hold off, move it to the spring and paint it and put it online.

A motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the payment to Cochran Engineering in the amount of \$3,759.69. The motion passed without dissent.

This has to do with the PFAS and PFOS. Our president has decided to bring this to the front runner. PFAS has been a conversation in wastewater for probably the last 5 years. You have to be a chemist to totally understand it but it is the chemicals that were used to do foam airplane, firefighting, all the furniture that is built, clothes, shoes, carpet, and almost everything that has any type of stain retardant waterproofing these kinds of chemicals were used to manufacture that. It has been found in wastewater, it's been found in some areas, it's been known to cause baby deformities and it affects prenatal women. The whole point is that we have to start testing our drinking water for PFOS and PFAS so I wanted you guys to have this and read it. There is not a whole lot out there. As I get more stuff, I will keep sending it to you. I get updates every once in a while, so I'll be giving it to you. They do have a preliminary limit of four trillion milligrams per liter which is crazy. We are going to start testing our drinking water for PFOS and PFAS so I'd like to be ahead of the game on this one rather than behind it. I don't want to sit here and wait until they come up with a regulation and then we start trying. I would like to know now if we have any problems, and we can start figuring out how to address it. If we don't have any problems, then we can even advertise that we have been testing our water for the last year and these are our numbers. We don't know until we start testing. No one knows yet (about the treatment) there is not enough information out there as to what direction they are going other than the fact that there is going to be a limit set and there will be something that will have to be done if you have it. That is kind of where we are right now. So, we try to guess, my guess is that it is going to happen. It was going to be happening in wastewater in the next two years, but I think they are going to hit it in the front side instead of the backside. If we have it in the water, then we are going to have it in wastewater, so I think that is the shift of the thinking of the EPA. They have been testing it in wastewater and there are certain areas, East Coast and West Coast that is always your hitters, and we get everything funneled to us. I don't want to be sitting in the backfield and wait. I wanted to get started on it now. It is just a smart thing for the City of Washington to do. We have to know and then we can be gearing up for what is ahead and figure that out in that point in time. That is just for you to read, there may be some links in that, and I can send this to you digitally so you can just click on it. There is a lot of information out there and they can make their own assumptions on what is going to happen.

**We started monitoring wastewater for COVID for some years now, what are the statistics?**

Washington, again last week, had a 100% COVID in our wastewater. Everyone that is testing does. It is still out there, and it is always going to be there and it is just the way it is. As long as they keep sending us boxes and don't charge us to do it. It doesn't cost us anything but a drive over to Union to drop the box off. It is information, that's really all it is.

I am still keeping track of our testing of influent and effluent chemical requirements for our industrial monitors and our BOD's and TSS's and it is still showing the same thing that you guys seem to report a couple of months about. We bring in double digits on our BOD's and TSS's and we are sending out single digits so the plant, even though it is 11 years old, the plant process is still doing exactly what it's supposed to do, it's discharging single digits. That is our biggest requirement follower for the permit, is that we don't go over 30/30. 30 mg/l in TSS's and BOD's. We are discharging 7 TSS's and 5 BOD's. It is getting older, and parts are starting to wear out, that just happens. As far as the plant and the permit are concerned, we are doing great. It does spit out a little odor every once in a while; we did find that our air scrubber in the wintertime, when it gets really cold, we have to shut it down or it freezes up. There was a couple of days in the wintertime, that I smelled it myself, but in this environment, you can't run it year-round. If we let it freeze up, then we break pipes and parts and we don't want to do that.

**Other**

None

**Old Business**

None

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date**

The next scheduled meeting date is Tuesday April 25, 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.

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

Adopted and Approved by the Board of Public Works:

Date: April 25, 2023 Signature: MFA DDS  
Secretary