

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Tuesday May 23, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Public Works held on May 23, 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	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	Chad Briggs	Absent
Mayor	James Hagedorn	Present
City Administrator	Darren Lamb	Present
Public Works Director		
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	Absent

**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 April 25, 2023, meeting. The motion passed without dissent.

## **Priority Items**

We had a priority situation happen two weeks ago. While the Gateway Fiber boring company was boring on Steutermann Road. We fixed the hole, and the water tore up a bunch of asphalt. There will be a bill from West Paving for \$27,000 to mill Steutermann Road and repave the road. We have to pay it because the lines on Steutermann Road do not have tracer wire and they are not on the maps; so when our locaters went out and located for this project, they located one of the lines which we thought was 12 inch. Come to find out it was a 6 inch and so they hit the 12 inch. Well now we know where the 12 inch is at and it's on ArcGIS now. Darren is working with the insurance company to see if there is anything that can be done. By locating standards, if we are off by five feet or do not locate and the company did their due diligence, which was they potholed the line that we marked as the 12 inch, it's us. It won't happen again because it is on the maps now.

Everything on Hwy A and East to Rabbit Trail, all that is PVC with no tracer wire. So we have to find valves and when you have numerous lines in a spot and you think that is the valve, and it's not. Then we try to do a thing called witching. We have rods and you walk along. It works and it doesn't. We have power lines above the 12 inch and if you have power lines or anything else around it's going to pick it up. So anytime we find a line, whether it's down by Rabbit Trail, anywhere we go, we've been updating the map. I've got Sarah, my office GIS person and Dylan is my field GIS person. He takes an iPad out if we find a new line he actually marks it online, then Sarah and Dylan sit at the end the day and update the map. We will have an updated map, for water, by the end of the year.

### **How much longer are these guys going to be tearing up everyone's yards?**

I do have to say, one thing, in their defense, not that I am standing up for them by no means, but I have been doing this a long time. I have seen a lot of boring companies come and go and I have seen a lot of damage from boring companies, that have damaged and just gone and we didn't know about it. They are doing a really good job of not overwhelming our locaters. If they can't find something they try to do their best of calling "hey we tried to pothole and we cant find it, can you come help?" As a matter of fact, a crew is going to go up and help them on Steutermann Road again because where we marked a 12 inch where we thought it was, apparently it is not. They potholed it so we are going to go up and help them find it so that they do not hit the 12 inch again and we have another whole situation. They are doing a lot better than any other boring company that has come through. They could have just came into Washington and done all this stuff and utility easements and there would not have been a lot we could have said to them. We actually worked up an ordinance and we worked with them, got things set where they have to follow some guidelines. I do have a name of a person, that if this continues on, I can give you their name and number. How long it is going to take, I don't know. They have a rock crew in now, some of Rabbit Trail, has rocks. I saw that they had to hire a rock crew which took a while so there is a lot of things that are going on. They won't leave Washington until everything is dressed up and back to the way it was, I can guarantee it.

### **Is there tracer wire in all the new developments?**

In the later part of 2000, Scot Skubal and I were doing locating, we had started taking over locating and there they were putting in water lines without tracer wire. Some of Stone Crest doesn't have any. So we got with Gary, and we had a really long discussion and finally about 2001 they started putting tracer wire. So, everything from about the late 2000 to early 2001 now has tracer wire, but everything before that doesn't. We started putting PVC in about the late 70s to 80s. Everything from there until 2000 has no tracer wire. That is some of the challenges out there that the guys

have and when it happens there is not a whole lot that we can do but fix it and keep moving on, then put it on maps when we find it. Sarah and Dylan are doing a great job on that.

### Wastewater

A bill from Cummins for the repair of the generator at the treatment plant. This is a vital piece of equipment down at the treatment plant. If we lose power, this generator can run the whole treatment plant on both sides. It can maintain the treatment plant as it sits with Ameren UE. It is getting older too, things happen to it. A motion made by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the payment to Cummins in the amount of \$12,266.03. The motion passed without dissent.

### Water

A bill from Cochran Engineering for the South Point ground water storage tank. This is a pay request for \$3,748.00. It is their engineering fees watching the workers as they do things. Checking all the submittals and making sure everything is okay on that so that's the part of what they are doing. We do have a water line now ran underneath of South Point Road and it is into the site. The road district can now pave their road and have all that done so we are moving forward on that. I am expecting some partial payments to start rolling in on some stuff. A partial payment for that from KJU. There is a chance we will start seeing some partial payments coming in from Caldwell Tank as they acquire steel. They will send payment requests in and it will all be checked by Cochran and reviewed by Cochran. If they don't approve it, it won't come to us until it is approved by Cochran. It is part of their contract agreement. A motion made by Mr. Radetic and seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the payment to Cochran in the amount of \$3,748.00. The motion passed without dissent.

A bill from Vandevanter for setting up the electronics and complete replacement of the controls at Well 6. This is a budgeted, long term project. All of our wells; we have nine wells, we are bringing all of them into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as far as controls and powers. Well 6 wasn't our oldest one, but we had a water line bust in Well 6 which flooded all the controls and everything in the well building so we had to replace the controls to get it back up and running. I was going to start with Well 4, because it is one of our oldest controls but I had to move it to Well 6. Next year will be Well 4, then we will move to Well 8 and Well 5. We are going to bring all of our wells up to standard. We have Well 7 done already, Well 6 and Well 3. It is about energy savings. Our old wells are cross line starters. When the SCADA system says, we need water, it sends a pulse to a relay which then activates a starter which slams together, draws all kinds of energy to start the well up, and then it creates water hammer and everything else. When the well shuts off the same thing happens, it calls and says I'm full, the tower sends a signal, the relay opens so the starter snaps and then the water shuts off automatically. When the new system calls for water, the motor ramps up at a slow nice steady pace, drawing less energy, no water hammer. When it shuts off, the same thing happens. It says, hey the tanks full, it says time to shut off, the VFD inside of it starts ramping the motor down slowly. Ramps it down to what they call a stop point where you have a nice calm smooth stop and no water hammer. Water hammer creates water breaks and creates problems in people's houses so we are working diligently to do what we do every day to provide everyone with the safest, cleanest drinking water. One of the safe things is to keep water lines from breaking and causing problems. That is the scenario, we are doing one every year. Well 7 cost us \$34,000. Well 3 cost us \$41,000. This will be in the new budget at \$44,000.

A motion made by Mr. Radetic and seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the payment to Vandevanter in the amount of \$42,631.00. The motion passed without dissent.

**Other**

I want to let everyone know that this is Public Works Week; that includes water, sewer, and streets and everyone that involves the public. The mayor gave a proclamation at the last council meeting for the employees and the plaque is hanging on the wall. I want to thank my guys, I wish I could have had them all here but they had to be out working. I want to thank all the employees, not just water and wastewater but street departments, the guys at recycling, and the guys at the landfill. They all do a great job and they work hard. They come to work in Washington because they love Washington and they love the people here. If we didn't have them the employees that we've got, we wouldn't have the service that we get. I would like to thank all of them.

Brad Mitchell's term is expiring in June. I would like to ask him if he would like to proceed but he is not here. The mayor has already talked to him, and we are good.

**Old Business**

None

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date**

The next scheduled meeting date is Tuesday June 27, 2023.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned on a motion by Mr. Radetic and seconded by Mr. Richardson. 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: June 27, 2023 Signature: M. Richardson  
Secretary