

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Tuesday June 27, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Public Works held on June 27, 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	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	Absent
Public Works Superintendent	Kevin Quaethem	Present
Water/Wastewater Admin. Asst.	Sarah Skeen	Present
Assistant City Engineer	Andrea Lueken	Absent
Waste Water Foreman	Kerry Duke	Absent
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. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held May 23, 2023 meeting. The motion passed without dissent.

## **Priority Items**

None

## **Wastewater**

A bill from Insituform for \$125,197.46. This is a partial payment for the part that they have done. We are in a situation that is typical of everything that we see all over the place. They are now having a labor situation or lack of labor to get everything done. We are on the schedule to finalize the rest of it but now we are in a slow down to get everything reorganized. I met with them yesterday, we are in the queue, but they are short on labor and everything else. We are still moving forward. We will be done by the end of the budget year, so we don't have to worry about doing any juggling there. A motion made by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the payment to Insituform in the amount of \$125,197.46. The motion passed without dissent.

We are doing good, all of our lift stations, besides one, are doing pretty good. Our lift station off of Rabbit Trail is taking in excessive amount of hand wipes, again. We are pulling the pumps three, sometimes four times a week. They are plugging up. It is getting to a point where it has met its capacity to carry the load. The good thing is, is that there is a plan in place, and the project is moving forward to take that lift station out of service and make it gravity fed to our existing gravity line on Rabbit Trail. So down a little bit further so that will alleviate that issue and just send it down to the treatment plant. Down at the plant, we are lucky enough that we have bar screens that drags a lot of that out before it ever gets into the process so the good and the bad, but it does have to go through the pumps. A lot bigger and more aggressive pumps at the treatment plant but it still does have to be pumped so that's just another maintenance thing that we deal with on a daily basis with hand wipes. All the people out there on YouTube that are watching us today, they don't break down, they do flush, but they don't break down and they cause us a ton of problems. I am working on an insert that I can put in the water bill that will be aggressive enough to shock but not bad enough to offend. I've got to pick the right picture to add to it. They need to see what is happening. Every community has it, we are not unique, but it is bad because it is a financial drain. We have already rebuilt and replaced the pumps at that station. All the stations take on rags, most of our pumps are bigger and are able to chew up and launch them down the drain. When you see them at the next station and you pull them out, they are still handwipes, they are just beat up. The ironic thing is that they don't do away, we draw them out of the system and they go out to the landfill and they sit out there because they don't break down at the landfill either. It is an ongoing problem and I don't see an end to it. There have been numerous lawsuits against the manufacturers and the defense that they always win on is that they don't say that they are biodegradable, just that they are flushable.

## **Water**

A pay request from Unnerstall for \$34,640.83, a partial payment for running the water line across South Point road over to the tank site to get that water on that side for the tank company to attach to. It was all part of the project. A motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the payment to Unnerstall Construction in the amount of \$34,640.83. The motion passed without dissent.

A change order #1 and #2 for the project with Unnerstall. The change order #1 is for an extension in time because they had to break rock, so it took longer. It is just a technicality, it is not affecting the timeline, it is just part of the contract with Unnerstall. Change order #2 is the increase of \$2000.00 to the project for the rock that they encountered. I personally do not like change orders, but they do happen and sometimes you can't avoid them. Rock is one of the things that you can never avoid a change order on because when you start the project you don't know how much rock you are actually going to hit. You can assume we knew there was going to be rock, but they didn't know how much or how deep it was going to be or how far it was going to be. Change order #1 and #2 we are approving them. A motion made by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the change orders. The motion passed without dissent.

Mobilization with Caldwell Tank started yesterday. I haven't been out there yet to see if anyone showed up but with that mobilization means that they are starting the project. They have to excavate and install a foundation and footings and all that for the base of the tank so that is what they are doing first. That should take two weeks, or three, it depends. They have to break rock there, but that is not a change order on the project because that was already planned. The tank crew is expected to show up August 16<sup>th</sup> to start the tank construction. If things go well, and the weather stays great, there is a small chance that we might get that tank completed this year, before November. If the tank doesn't get constructed before November, we will have to hold off on the painting and come back in April and paint. We may have a tank sitting out there over the winter that is empty and just primed. They will come back in April, sandblast it, re-prime it, and paint it. It all hinges on delivery of materials, construction, and timeline. As it moves on, I will give you more information. It is a needed tank in that area. It gives an extra million gallons for fire protection on the east end of town. There is only half a million gallons of stored water on the east end of town and there is two million gallons of water on the west end of town. We have a big growth of residential on the east end of town that needs that extra water. It is not going to change pressure; it is just going to give volume.

### **Other**

None

### **Old Business**

We are currently working on running a practice billing, working with Tyler on that, with our wastewater increase so that we will know what the monthly income will be. We are going to look at that project to see what kind of revenue we are going to continue to grow to make sure that we can be self-sustainable. We are hitting almost 3 million gallons daily on our wastewater treatment plant. We are built to 4 million, as things keep growing and we keep taking on more stuff, that flow to the treatment plant is going to grow. When we hit 3.8 million, DNR is going to highly suggest an expansion. At some point in time, we need to look at the cost of expansion up to 6 million, which is what our plant is designed to be and plan for that. We are working on projections as to how long it is going to be. We have a lot of stuff to look at, growth and usage, and it is going to happen, and we need to be ready for it. We are enterprise funds, and we are required to be self-sufficient. Our revenue from sales are supposed to be able to maintain the system. We don't want to have to do a rate increase and then 2 years down the road, do another rate increase. We need to look at it as an ongoing issue and is the CPI going to be enough to get something there to do that. We are moving forward, and we are going to try to get that to you next month so that we can

approve it and get it to the council in August so that they have time to digest it. It is a big operational necessity, not a wish list increase. DNR they don't approve of operating systems in the red. Material cost have gone up are not going to go away. Just on the water side, we ordered hydrants last year and they were right around \$1500. This year they are \$2500 for the same fire hydrants. Unfortunately, we all have to absorb that.

**When we put that plant online, how many gallons were we treating?** We were treating 1.9, we went from two to three in about three years, roughly. We've had quite a while just having that 1.9, 2.1 area and then we jumped up so it's not because of infiltration, that just intermittent hits. This is a daily operational flow. The more industry we bring in, our new one is Pre Coat. We are assuming how much water they're going to use. Information is slowly coming in that it could generate a million gallons a day. That's what happens when you start bringing in industry, depending on what those processes are, they bring in a lot of extra volume. I am trying to get numbers on what their actual operation is going to bring in then you got to look at the rest of the industrial park, what comes into it. At one point in time there was a canning company looking to come into town. Canning companies use a ton of water and they discharge it. That's the kind of thing we got to look at. What is out there possible, what is our growth going to look like for subdivisions. We already know out there by Bieker Road and Southpoint there is another 120 acres and you have at least 125 houses going out there. We've got apartments on 100, that's about 300 plus.

Growth is great, I hope there is someone, when the growth is occurring, everybody likes growth because we create jobs and we create revenue but there is obviously thought given to, wait a minute is that growth really good. How much more does it cost us to grow and recoup that? I am not saying it is or it isn't, but I am saying that everybody wants to see growth and we talk about growth and we talk about the revenue created, and we talk about jobs created and having housing, and that's all good but if nobody is on the back end thinking of expanding treatment plant and water facilities. I mean I'm guessing that's some of the last part of the conversation that's always the last part of the time if it's in the conversation. Sometimes it is not even brought up until we get to this point on this board and all of a sudden we got to do this and do that, and we didn't plan for it, we have no money. That's why I am trying to start that conversation now. We got to the point when we started looking at building a new plant, our old plant was running at max and had been running at max for a while. I don't want to get to that point, I don't want to be that guy that's in there going well yeah, I should have thought about that two years ago. That's why I am thinking about that now, I can see it happen quicker than what we are even prepared for. We got to be looking at what is coming down the line.

**Do you have any idea what it would cost?** I could look back to see what it was estimated but you would have to probably quadruple that since then. I would be throwing a number out there. I am going to start getting some feelers out there to see if I can get some information on that. I do know quite a few people that built wastewater treatment plants that are currently doing them and I think I can pick their brain and get a rough cost on it.

**How long did we meet and discuss before we got that plan?** At least four years. We will be at four in probably two years if not sooner, so that's the thing. We got to smart growth which involves all the infrastructure. It was nice when I came on board, Sandy had that established already. Number wise, I'm doing what you know, how that is going to fit into the budget. I don't want to grow too fast; I don't think anybody does. The numbers are right around 3% for a year

and that's okay we can handle that. It is the explosive growth and worse than that, they have to redo the roads and the infrastructure because they let their developers go willy nilly buying all these farms and put their houses in there without the infrastructure. We have a good deal with all the money coming down the pipeline. We are using the ARPA funds for infrastructure. We are going through the comprehensive plan right now and budgeting for the future. Please don't worry but keep it in the conversation all the time. Thank you for the update and stay tuned for more. When I get the information you guys will get it, it just takes time. I will have the information for the rate increase for you guys next month. I am working on the budget for this upcoming year. The numbers I get today will be totally different by the time October gets here. One person told me to add 25% to whatever I gave you a number for.

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date**

The next scheduled meeting date is Tuesday July 25, 2023.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned on a motion by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Mitchell. 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: July 25, 2023 Signature: [Signature]  
Secretary