

UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES JANUARY 6, 2015

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on January 6, 2015 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Gary Petrusky, Vice Chair Dan Langshaw, Dan Kasaris; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz, Paul Marnecheck, Steve Muller, John Nickell; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, Service Director Nick Cinquepalmi, Wastewater Superintendent Tim Tigie; Other: Laura Kemp.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Langshaw to **approve the November 5, 2014 minutes.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Inflow/Infiltration of storm water

Mr. Tigie said that we do not perform dye testing this time of year due to the weather. He said he expects to start again sometime in April. Mr. Kasaris asked what area of Ward 1 will be tested. Mr. Tigie said that if we get the letters out in time, the plan is to go to Pamela Drive first. Otherwise, we still have areas on York and so forth to finish up. He said if Ward 1 is finished, we will move on. Mr. Kasaris asked where we are with the enforcement. Mr. Tigie said as in the past, we follow through the process of 90, 60, 10 days and then the Mayor's Court. If the residents contact us for extra time, we will grant it. He said that the 60 day letters are out right now to the St. Thomas Woods residents. He said not much work is going to get done with snow on the ground so we will give them more time to complete the work. He said we will force it again in the spring. Mr. Kasaris said that assuming we finish with Ward 1, where would they go next. Mr. Tigie said that he and the Mayor need to discuss this, but there are some developments such as Pine Stream and Hunters Creek where he would like to test. He said that if the sewer district starts pushing us on C District, we have to start doing this district. Mr. Kasaris asked if he anticipates a problem with Pine Stream. Mr. Tigie said yes, there is a problem there. You can see it in how the lift station reacts every time it rains. He said an unbelievable amount of water goes into the Pine Stream and Hunters Creek lift stations; much more than any of the other lift stations. He said that we will prioritize and determine the best place to start. Mr. Tigie said that he will no longer perform smoke testing due to the inaccurate results. Dye testing is much more accurate but it takes 2-3 hours per home to complete the testing. Mr. Tigie said that we will not be focusing on any particular Ward. We will go where we know there are problems. We focused on Ward 1 because it was in our Plant B permit and we were forced by the EPA to do the testing. The EPA was allowing a bypass at the B Plant but they were only allowing it as long we make an effort to stop the storm water from coming in. He said that if the EPA does not allow for that bypass, we have to build more storage basins at B Plant at the cost of millions of dollars. This is why we were concentrating on Ward 1 and the B Plant area. He said that we do not have a bypass at A Plant so it's not required by the permit. However, he said that the I&I into A Plant is twice as bad as at B Plant. He said that we need to keep going, prioritize the worst areas and then slowly but surely get them done. He said that dye testing will be a continuous project. He said that once we get it all tested, it will probably be 15 years from now and it will be time to start all over again. He said it is the nature of what happens to pipes underground. He said it is continuous maintenance. Mr. Kasaris asked if they ever confirmed the theory that there was some place by a creek where a lot of storm water was going. Mr. Tigie said yes, they were able to confirm this. He said they put in flow meters and found out that Pamela Drive itself is the concern. Once we cut that down, then we will find where all the other little ones are. He said that when we dye tested Pamela Drive in 2007, 35 out of the 38 homes failed. He said we are going to dye test again to ensure that the previous tests were accurate and then we will start the process to get them repaired. Mr. Marnecheck asked what Mr. Tigie thinks they will find at Hunters Creek. Does he think it's the whole subdivision or just Stoney Creek. Mr. Tigie said that there is no way to know. His guess is that it is many homes throughout the subdivision. He said the biggest issue is inspections. When we build new developments we must inspect properly. He understands that it is hard because you have a third party doing the inspection, and then we have to follow up with our own inspector and in the past, a lot was missed. He said we should never let this happen again. Mr. Marnecheck asked if a resident can have the testing performed on their own and provide the results to the city. Mr. Tigie said that they can if they want to, but we will do it for them at no charge.

NEW BUSINESS**1. Emergency Generator replacement for “A” WWTP – design, bid and install in 2015 (Engineering Consultant is Brown & Caldwell)**

Mr. Tigue explained that the emergency generator at A Plant is used as a backup for electrical power. He said that it is a top of the line generator meaning that it will supply all the electrical power to the entire plant in case of a power outage. It is a very important piece of equipment and is about 27 years old with 800 hours of usage. Mr. Tigue supplied photos, copies of which are attached to these minutes. He said it a 400 kilowatt generator and is run by diesel. He said that the diesel is stored in an ungrounded 2,000 gallon storage tank. He said that this tank will not be replaced. He said that a very important piece to any generator is the transfer switch. This is a compartment where the power is switched from the main power (First Energy) to the generator power. He said that initially he wanted to go with natural gas; it's quieter and has no fumes. However it would have taken years to redesign the whole area, we would have to go through a closure of the underground storage tank by either digging it up or abandoning it in place which would result in more design costs and the generator itself would be twice as expensive. He said that he has decided to replace the generator with another diesel generator. It's a lot simpler to do and it is less expensive. He said that the Law Department is reviewing the contract at this time. He said that he would really like to get this done this year. The consultant will help us with the design and will bid it out for us. They are trying to get the big three generator companies to bid, those being Cummins, Kohler, and Caterpillar. The consultant will handle the design, the bid, and the actual construction and replacement of the unit. During the time that it is being replaced we will need to rent a generator because it will take more than just a day. Discussion was held regarding the various sizes of generators available and the size needed to meet the operations at A Plant. Mr. Langshaw asked what the life span would be for the new generator. Mr. Tigue said that they usually last a minimum of 25 years. Mr. Nickel asked what we will do with the old generator. Mr. Tigue said that we are hoping that part of the bid agreement will be to have the bidder take it as a trade in and lower the cost of our purchase. Mr. Marnecheck asked if the consultants will ensure that this unit is compatible in terms of design and parts. Mr. Tigue said that the consultant picked these three companies to bid because they are local. He said that we hire a company to check and service all of our generators twice a year. He said we have 13 generators; 11 at the lift stations and one at each plant. They are also available on-call in an emergency situation. Mr. Marnecheck asked if Mr. Tigue is looking to purchase any additional generators and bid it as a “bundle”. Mr. Tigue said no, at this time we do not have any concerns with any of the other generators. 10 of the 11 lift stations have natural gas generators and are small, so they will last for a long time. He felt that maybe in two years it will be necessary to talk about replacing the generator at B Plant.

2. New Influent Pump Station for “A” WWTP – design and OWDA/WPCLF loan application in 2015; bid and construct in 2016 (Engineering Consultant is MWH Global)

Mr. Tigue said that in early 2014, Council received the Plant Influent Pump Study for A Plant. The next step is to design and apply for the loan application to build and construct the Alternative 2 from the study. Montgomery Watson is the consultant and are the ones that did the study and they also did the A Plant upgrade back in 1997. It is going to cost \$260,000 for the design. The loan application is \$10,000. They are estimating \$2 million for the actual project, but he thinks it might be a little more. He said we are going to have to pay for the bid and contract administration costs, and resident engineering costs. This is just for the design cost. He said the Law Department is looking at the draft contracts. Mr. Nickell asked if it would be correct to say that these are industrial sump pumps. Mr. Tigue said that is exactly what they are. He said it would be just like a lift station, only it's at the plant. There won't be open screw pumps anymore, noise and odor will be reduced because it will be in a covered well and not in an open pit. The only concern they will have is wet well control, but we will get through that and make it run ok. He said the residents won't have any concerns about the bearing noises anymore, we won't have any concerns about the river and the creek flooding into the wet well. This wet well will be in a higher area and the river has yet to flood to the point where this will be placed. Mr. Nickell said that it sounds like we will have multiple pumps so as the capacity increases during a storm, we can pump more and this means that if we are able to pump this out of the sanitary sewer, residents would have less probability of back up. Mr. Tigue said yes, definitely the residents on Edgerton. The main sewer from Rt. 82 is much higher. He said the most important thing is we will have all these

options for pumps that we don't have now and if we have any failures, we will be able to pull and lift the pump out and replace it. We can't do that with the screw pumps. We cannot repair these and we need ten ton cranes to move them. At that point, a screw pump would take two and a half months to take out of service, where these submersible pumps will be lifted out and a spare put right back in. Mr. Marnecheck asked if the EPA is happier that we have these pumps vs. the screw pumps. Mr. Tigue said they have no opinion yet. Once the plans are drawn up and the permit to install is sent to the EPA for their approval, then they will give us the ok to install or not. He said that as long as they see it as an improvement and it meets the state standards, they will have no problem with it. He said that it improves the area for our residents with noise and odor and it helps the plant personnel because we don't have to worry about taking a screw pump out of service for two and a half months. He also feels that we will have no problem getting the loan. He felt we would get the loan in 2016 and do the bid and construction in 2016, with the design and loan application occurring in 2015. Mr. Marnecheck asked who we are making to loan application to. Mr. Tigue said the State of Ohio EPA. There was a brief discussion regarding replacement parts for the current screw pumps and the cost and availability of same. Mr. Muller asked if when we did the rate study, did we have any calculations or estimates included for any of these projects. Mr. Tigue said yes, he had \$400,000 for three years in a row just to replace the screw pumps starting next year. He never thought he would change the whole idea, so we put \$1.2 million in the rate study over three years. We are going to have \$2 million plus the money we are spending on the consultant, over 20 years which is about \$155,000 +/- depending on the rate. So if you include the design amount of \$250,000 this year and look to see if we can pay the cost of their services for next year when they construct out our budget directly, we will be really close to that \$1.2 for the three to four years. We then have to keep paying the \$155,000 for the next 17 years, but he thinks that this is the best way to do it.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Langshaw **to adjourn the January 6, 2015 meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.