

UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2014

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on March 4, 2014 at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:23 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, Waste Water Superintendent Tim Tigue, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Finance Director Eric Dean; Other: Jimmy Emrick.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Antoskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Kasaris to **approve the February 4, 2014, 2014 minutes.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Inflow/Infiltration of storm water**

Mr. Tigue said there are no new updates since there is no dye testing during the winter. He said that they have not located what he feels is one of the major I&I points in the B sewer district. He said that they will be putting flow meters in certain areas to try and locate the leaks. He said that this takes rainstorms, time, etc. He said that he was hopeful of visually locating the leaks but is difficult with all the snow. He feels that it is an open manhole or broken riser near a creek or a stormwater culvert somewhere in the B sewer district. Mr. Marnecheck asked if there is any chance that this leak is on a resident's lot. Mr. Tigue said no, it is too big to be just one residential property.

2. **Wiltshire Sanitary Sewer**

No odor complaints have been received.

3. **A-Plant Permit**

Mr. Tigue said that we have not yet received an updated permit from the EPA, but said it is expected early summer. It will be a draft permit and we will have 30 days in which to comment if we feel something is invalid or being pushed beyond what the laws state. He said he will advise when the draft permit is received. Based on their recent inspection, he does not believe that there will be any major impact.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **"B" WWTP Sludge Force Main/Tanker hauling alternative**

Mr. Tigue said that on February 10, 2014 there was a leak in the sludge force main. He said we have tried to repair it twice and both attempts have failed. It is leaking out of one of the manholes in front of 11883 Abbey. Mr. Tigue provided a diagram of the sludge force main to the committee and reviewed it with them. He said the force main was installed in 1991 and modified in 1997 and it forces sludge from B plant to A plant. It's not raw sewage, it's sludge that settles in the plant. Plant A then disposes of it by dewatering. Plant B has no solids disposal. Mr. Tigue reviewed how the force main functions. Mr. Tigue also provided the committee with a document comparing the sludge force main sewer vs. tanker vehicle hauling. He said that he was going to have the force main assessed for damage but discovered that it would cost \$75,000 just to have it assessed. This would include no repairs or options. Mr. Tigue said that considering the size and age of the force main and what it would take to rehabilitate the sludge line, he has decided that hauling the sludge from Plant B to Plant A would be a smarter way to go. Economics is one reason, but it's the risks involved with this line going across the turnpike and in front of everyone's yard on the east side of Abbey Road. For a city our size, he doesn't think we need to mess with a sludge force main. Mr. Kasaris asked if we have hauled the sludge in the past. Mr. Tigue said that hauling from one plant to the other was done when they were having problems with the force main in the mid 1990's. Mr. Marnecheck asked if we would be bypassing the sludge main. Mr. Tigue said yes. Mr. Tigue said normally he would have done a plan on this, would have had a consultant, etc. but unfortunately the force main broke. Mr. Kasaris asked what is involved with hauling by tanker. Mr. Tigue

said that we would buy a 3500 gallon tanker, we would suck the sludge out of the well and haul it to Plant A twice a day four days a week on average. He felt that the truck would easily last 15-20 years. He said that the force main only pumps for 30 minutes, 4 days a week. He did not feel we need such a massive line for this purpose and was unsure why the city went this route when it was built. He said hauling the sludge would not add any labor. It will be done by the operator or maintenance personnel already on staff. Mr. Kasaris asked what is involved in abandoning this sludge line. Mr. Tigie said that he needs to research this aspect further. He said removing the exposed pipe over the turnpike would be very costly. He said that we could flush it, drain it and leave it intact in case we need to use it in the future. Mr. Kasaris asked if more damage could occur if the line goes unused for a period of time. Mr. Tigie said no. Mr. Petrusky asked if there are any EPA issues due to the leak. Mr. Tigie said that he gave the EPA a letter the same day as the leak outlining what happened, what we did and how we did it. He said that on the day it happened there was a lot of snow on the ground. We only saw the darkness of the material that was melting the snow. We used a front end loader to clean up the area and have had no complaints. Once the snow melted, we saw more of the leak that had to be removed. We will rake that off and reseed the area. Mr. Nickell asked if it would be more cost effective to hire an outside contractor to haul the sludge. Mr. Tigie said no. Referring to his comparison sheet, he said that if we were to hire a contractor to do this, he estimates it would cost \$600/day x 4 days a week x 52 weeks. He said that would be the equivalent of half of the cost of purchasing the truck in just one year. The truck may be able to be used for other functions in the city as well. Mr. Nickell asked where the funds are coming from for this purpose. Mr. Tigie said we have to move money that was aimed at the C district storm water fee. That transfer is included in the amending appropriation that is on the Council agenda this evening. Mr. Langshaw asked if this is the first time we have had a problem with the force main. Mr. Tigie said no, there were tremendous problems in the 1990's involving lawsuits. He feels that there are too many risks to continue in this manner. Mr. Langshaw asked if it is normal for the industry to haul the sludge. Mr. Tigie said that normally wastewater plants have solids handling on site. He said the only other plant he knows that operates like our B Plant is the Easterly Wastewater Plant on Lakeshore Blvd. and E. 140th Street. They pump 3,000,000 gallons via pipe all the way to the Southerly Plant at 150 psi. So having a sludge force main is not the norm, especially for a city of our size. Mr. Marnecheck asked how much it would cost to equip B Plant with solids treatment ability. Mr. Tigie said he would estimate \$1.5 -\$2 million. With A Plant being so close it doesn't make sense to do this. Mr. Marnecheck asked if there is a chance that the EPA may require us to be able to treat that on site. Mr. Tigie said no because we are doing it without any issues as A Plant. Mr. Petrusky asked if there are any concerns with hauling the sludge should something happen while it is being transferred. Mr. Tigie said they will map out the safest route for the public to minimize any slight risk that there may be. It won't be any bigger than any of the septic tank trucks you already see on the road.

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Langshaw to **recommend approval of Ordinance 14-32 to Council.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Kasaris to **adjourn the meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.