

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, June 3, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Bormann at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Simmons, Magley, Angell, Lee, and Wilkins. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Mike Forsee, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, and James Smith.

Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department. Committee members had no questions.

Bormann noted that Midland GIS had started work this morning and were starting with survey monuments he set in the southern part of the City. He did this in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. DNR will incorporate them into the state's surveying system.

Magley asked about the safety of a leaning power pole on West Lakeview Street. Mustain said that it had been that way for some time, but he does have fixing it on his work list.

Behrns explained how the City pays for "capacity" as part of its electric power purchases. In the 2012-2014 contract with Ameren Energy Marketing, Kahoka and Marceline use their diesel power generators to offset part of the charge that they, Hannibal, and Centralia pay. In turn, Hannibal and Centralia reimburse the other two cities. A recent regulation from EPA will end the use of diesel generators, except for true emergencies, unless they are given expensive retrofits. When the regulations are effective, all the cities will have to amend the AEM contract to supply the capacity component of their power supply. (The contract with AEM for 2015 through May 2017 incorporates capacity into the overall power rate and will not be an issue.) Behrns is not sure of the timing of the change. It should be almost revenue neutral for Centralia. At the moment, there does not appear any advantage to selling our Prairie State capacity separately.

Streets and Sanitation

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Street and Sanitation Departments.

Hoffman said the Street Department is mostly working on customer culverts at the moment. He is waiting for extra survey benchmarks to complete the installation of stormsewer pipe on Switzler. This must be done before the contractor can start on the street reconstruction. There is no starting date set yet for that work. Bormann said he thought the contractor has also been delayed by the constant rainy weather.

Behrns asked for the Committee's decision on where to provide dust control. Hoffman said that work on Columbia Street had cost about \$600 last year. To add the unpaved section of Ivy Street would be somewhat less. Ivy gets less traffic, but Magley and others said that the City should strive for fairness. Committee members indicated that Hoffman should have dust control chemical applied to both streets.

One of the sanitation trucks is waiting for replacement wiring harnesses in order to complete repairs. Return of this truck will allow the City to end use of Dayne's. Repairs may still be two or more weeks away. For most of May, the bill from Dayne's was \$13,000+ for the truck and labor, and \$8,100 for tipping at the transfer station in Mexico. That

later portion of the expense is the same as the City would have paid to the Columbia landfill.

Behrns reported that MOPERM has offered \$118,000 for the other sanitation truck by fire, less \$100 for the insurance deductible. This amount, plus more than \$71,000 in reserves available at end of fiscal year, less estimated \$21,000 for Dayne's would leave \$168,000 available for a replacement truck. Staff has identified a possible one for about \$157,000, with the same specs as the old truck. However, it is a demonstration unit with about 10,000 miles on it. The City's last truck cost about \$137,000, but new required emission equipment means prices have raised. Angell moved to accept the MOPERM settlement. Simmons seconded the motion. All members voted aye and the motion carried. Behrns will sign the title and convey the remains of the destroyed truck to MOPERM for salvage.

Board members discussed ongoing policy for trash collection. Several aldermen said their constituents have expressed a desire that the City retain control over the service. Many citizens have also said they were satisfied with the efforts of our current employees. While Dayne's has done an excellent job, the Board consensus was to maintain the status quo, rather than bidding out collection services. (The City would still have done billing.) Simmons moved that the City keep the Sanitation service as it has been and not bid out. Angell second the motion. All present voted in favor and motion carried.

Committee members said that the City should proceed with purchasing a replacement truck as soon as possible if that means purchasing the best used truck without bids that was preferable to not having a backup truck and waiting months to bid for a completely new unit. Also, a new truck might not be affordable. Hoffman and Behrns will continue to survey vendors and internet offers. They will have a recommendation for the next regular board meeting.

Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department. Committee members had no questions.

Bormann asked about the number of meters with no readings. Forsee said there were about 80 and most resulted from water filling the meter pits. Of the with the newer style of radio units, only one or two failed to read. These showed damage, probably from lawn mowing. Not all the old units are a constant problem, but this time physical re-reads added almost two days to the department's work. Committee discussed a standing quotation for more transpondit radio units at \$69.50 apiece. Forsee said 470 of the old-style units are still in service. Committee asked Behrns if the Water Fund could afford to replace all the old units now. After thought, Behrns said yes, although the cost would cut into funds that had been intended for replacement of old mains and construction of new mains if subdivision activity takes place. Magley asked Forsee to seek a lower price for ordering all remaining units at once. Forsee will check on this and the Board can take appropriate action at the regular Board meeting.

Forsee said that a raccoon got into the electric line to the northeast pumps and was fried. This caused damage on the circuit to the overland flow pumps--blowing fuses but not before burning out the motor to one of the smaller pumps. It has been sent to be repaired, which may cost in excess of \$3,000. This pump is the same size as used for the northwest lift station. Forsee likely will recommend that next year's budget contain another as a spare.

Insituform started with cleaning sewer mains and video-inspecting them for problems. Weather cooperating, the crew will start sliplining on the 17th. They should be done in just two or three days.

Forsee said he was looking to acquire a wench setup for the northwest lift station. He now has to rely on the electric department hoist on the derrick truck. His department has a frequent need to clean screens and pump impellers. They are checking the station at least twice a week. They are now using smaller gauge screens as extra guard. These can become heavy with debris. Forsee said that other utilities say “chopper” style pumps are not always a solution for swifter mop heads or whatever material is fouling the mains.

Other

Behrns asked for Board advice on how wood should be “neatly stacked” in order to not be a nuisance. After discussion, he was told that citizens using an “Amish” style pile is fine, if done neatly. The wood need not be stacked like cord wood.

As May Arise

Magley asked for staff to arrange for Clifford de la Rosa to visit the Board and describe the efforts he is taking to deal with the deterioration of the Narraganset Building.

Behrns said that sealing of the building walls next to the former 105 N. Allen Street is only a day from being complete. He asked if they want him to negotiate with Carlan’s, since they submitted the only response to a newspaper ad last year. Since that time the work has been drawn out and aldermen have receive belated inquiries. Behrns said he did not think he would be breaking faith if he repeated the search for interested parties. Behrns did not think that a true auction would be the best course. Aldermen agreed that the City would be best served by asking for proposals that maximized all benefits to the public in term of use, employment, sale price, and aesthetics. Behrns will prepare an ad and brief Request for Proposals. Then a committee could make a judgment and negotiate based on the best proposal on all the criteria.

The Committee adjourned at about 8:10 p.m.