

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, October 7, 2013.

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

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments

Streets and Sanitation

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Street and Sanitation Departments. Hoffman told the Committee that the contractor should begin pouring concrete on Switzler Street on Wednesday, pour approaches and driveways on Thursday, and starting on sidewalks on Friday.

Committee discussed the draft of the proposed ordinance setting standards for excavations in the City rights-of-way. The proposal does not govern projects on private property (except in public easements). Behrns was directed to craft new language to specify 1" clean rock as acceptable backfill for trenches. Also, replacement pavement should be at least 8" thick and the surface course should extend 1' out from the shoulders of the excavation onto undisturbed soil. They agreed that there should be a permit fee to cover the cost of inspection, which could be doubled for inspections required after-hours. Inspectors would not need to be constantly present.

Hoffman had nothing to report concerning stormsewers or sanitation operations.

Hoffman mentioned that roof leaks on the Street Shop Building had grown worse, with bad leaks over the entrance door and near the electrical panel box. The roof is over 30 years old. Hoffman had discussed the situation with the vender who repaired the roof of the police station. He was told that the roof's nails and/or screws need to be redone and the roof resealed. The vender suggested a spray-on material which dries to a consistency similar to flexible duct tape. Behrns will place an advertisement for vender proposals in the paper and have the responses next month's meeting.

Electric Department

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

Mustain told Committee that he was securing bids for two 75 kVA pad-mount transformers. One would be for near the new LaCrosse Lumber location, the other near Brook's new recreation building. This will leave one unit as an emergency backup. A bid tabulation will be included in the agenda packet for the regular Board meeting.

Mustain noted that the electric shop also had roof leaks, but the repairs could be deferred to the next budget year. Also, Mustain said he will need to replace his locator. It was not accurate enough to find a buried cable last month, and a line was hit during a fence construction.

Behrns said that he now has firm numbers on costs for the "capacity charge" component of wholesale

electric purchase. After April, we will buy directly from Ameren Energy Marketing instead of Marceline and Kahoka. The City will actually save about \$150 per month through the end of 2014. In 2015 and 2016, the next power purchase contract will have capacity charges included in the overall rates.

Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department.

Committee members had no questions.

Forsee passed around a draft "field book" of water mains. This is a product of Midland GIS. He and Mustain have the drafts to start fact checking. Midland is in town to do supplemental field work. More work will be done after the tree leaves fall. Forsee told Lee that it would be simple to provide copies to the Fire Department, so that they can easily locate hydrants.

Committee discussed the damage that swifter mop covers, moistened toilet wipes, and other fabric waste can cause to sewer system pumps. Centralia's system is controlling the problem with screens and frequent field checks (including checks of electric demand on the pumps). Randy Adams has had to clear the pumps less frequently, but it still happens. Several newspapers and other media have recently reported that the problem is world wide and creating enormous costs.

Behrns has furnished a new draft of a policy for turn on/turn off of large water customers. This is simplified from last month. The water department has supplied appropriate wrenches to the managers of four apartment complexes. These fit the respective shutoffs at the meters to those customers, and they will be allowed to turnoff water in order to facilitate repairs. They have acknowledged that they will be financially responsible for any damage to the City's lines or meter assemblies. New structures built to the Plumbing Code will not have this problem. The Code requires customer-side valves for the building and for individual apartments. Forsee said that he would like one option dropped from the draft. The Committee agreed. The revised version will be on the regular Board agenda as a Policy Resolution.

Committee discussed final disposition of the Street Department's backhoe when the new backhoe arrives. Eventually, staff was directed to get outside estimates of value for the old backhoe. In this way, the Aldermen can judge whether to accept a negotiated sale of the old equipment to the Special Road District or to take the machine to auction. Magley said that Wheeler will have a large equipment auction in February.

Police Dudgeon arrived.

Forsee will be attending a conference at the end of the month. At that time, he should learn what changes may be made by the DNR in the Supervised Construction Program. The City will then be able to send out reports to engineering firms. Several firms have good track records for similar work for other water systems. The City's current program has expired. The new program may be simplified.

As May Arise

None.

The Committee adjourned at about 7:45 p.m.