



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2014, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Grumman, D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg
Members Absent: M. Landis, M. White
Staff Present: C. Hurley, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Guest Present: J. Freeman, S. Kismohr, M. Smith
Presiding Member: D. Lanyon

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:16 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 9, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the May 9, 2014 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **Forthcoming Utilities Department activities**
There were no announcements or communications.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy efficiency white paper and update on status of city database**
Mr. Kismohr reviewed the revisions to the white paper and said that it is always good to have bullets that can be skimmed through quickly and then have someone who can give narrative, and be well prepared to answer questions from the public, building owners, managers and the Aldermen. Mr. Freeman said that the A&PW, and Mayor should hear about it first to see what they think. Ms. Hurley suggested having a power point presentation of other communities that are doing it, have a cover memo, a one page executive summary, and a second more detailed information page, and ask for feedback. Chair Lanyon said that they need to have a better idea of which buildings would be involved. Mr. Kismohr said that they should determine what the threshold for square footage is first. Ms. Hurley said that when they have a rough estimate of building size, she will have her interns go to different databases to compile building information, and provide a list of the type, size, and number of buildings involved to help decide if the threshold should be 10,000 or 50,000 square feet. Mr. Stoneback said that the Aldermen will want to know the names of buildings and properties this would affect as well.
- b. **Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Status of draft report on water conservation at five city facilities**

Mr. Freeman said he received the list with the largest users' accounts. He provided the Commission with a spreadsheet that he color coded with similar users, such as hotels, and long term living care facilities.

- c. **Work Plan Item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure – Item is inactive until consideration of 2015 budget**
Mr. Stoneback said that he will have the 2015 budget ready for the Commission's consideration at next month's meeting.
- d. **Status of the next community aggregation contract incorporating local renewable energy and/or energy efficiency benefits**
Ms. Hurley said that today is the last day for resident's to opt out if they choose to do so. She said that overall it has been pretty quiet, other than that the City Manager's Office phone number was listed on the letter in error instead of 311 or Homefield so they received five times the call volume than before. She said that the calls she has received this time consisted of more detailed conversations than before, breaking down misinformation.
- e. **Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Status report on ComEd billing street lighting circuits and selection of circuits for testing**
Mr. Freeman said that Mr. Stoneback passed along an accounting of all of the street light fixtures. Mr. Stoneback said that any one circuit may have 100 different fixtures on them of different wattages, so they will need to break it down. He said that a summary spreadsheet will need to be made of the information ComEd has so Mr. Twigg can compare it with changes that have been made. Mr. Freeman said that he will prepare the spreadsheet in the next week or two. Mr. Stoneback said he will then meet with Mr. Twigg, and if he finds that there are a lot of discrepancies, he will have an intern work on it to straighten it out and then meet with ComEd again.

STAFF REPORTS

- a. **Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns and Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2014 improvement projects**
Mr. Stoneback said that there were two power outages at the circuit level that occurred at the same time. He said that he did not receive an automatic email notification of the outages from ComEd as he should have, so he made Mr. Batara aware of it and he resent the email to him.

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

- there were no water main breaks in May.
- the basement backups in May were determined to be private lateral issues, and that there have been no flooding complaints.
- the number of Water Service Repair permits continues to be small, and the number of Sewer Service Repair permits remains the same as they have been previously.

Mr. Stoneback also stated that the Capital Improvement Projects have been moving along, and that he will be meeting with the Northwest Water Commission (NWC) twice next week to talk about the plant reliability improvements since some of the work he proposes to do could theoretically be considered to be increasing the capacity of the water plant. He said that the AMI Replacement Program is going along well and is 94% complete. He noted that some of the wires are breaking as they are trying to replace them, so they have to enter the resident's homes to install new wires, which is delaying the project. He said that as a result, he will go to Council to ask for a time extension, and a change order to replace some older meters. He said that November 21st is the revised completion date. Mr. Stoneback said that the gas main has been rerouted on Lincoln Street and excavation will start the week after Northwestern University's graduation on June 20th. He said that five firms are signing nondisclosure agreements and will be provided with the plans and specs for the Chlorine Equipment Replacement. Mr. Stoneback said that the Water Main Replacement project is well under way, and that Lake and Davis Streets are both finished. Mr. Stoneback stated that CDM's report on the Finished Water Reservoir is due in August so that he can incorporate their recommendations into the Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Stoneback said that the small diameter sewer lining of the CIPP Sewer Rehabilitation project will begin next week, and the large diameter sewer lining work on Central Park is going along really well and should be wrapping up very quickly. Mr. Stoneback reported that due to cost he will have to find another way to do the Stormwater Management Improvements project using in-house personnel. Mr. Stoneback said that Nicor Gas replaced low pressure gas mains with high pressure gas mains in 2013, and more will be replaced this year, and that Nicor has a plan to replace all low pressure gas mains in Evanston by 2017. He said that he is going to meet with Nicor about their slow response on gas leaks today, but there are multiple leaks throughout the service area and they are short staffed right now.

b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback said that there have been newspaper articles indicating that Niles talked to Chicago to try and get them not to do their last 15% rate increase, but Chicago would not budge on the rate so, now Niles will make a decision in the next sixty to ninety days whether to go with Chicago or Evanston. Mr. Stoneback said that Park Ridge was supposed to have another discussion on June 9th but cancelled the meeting. He said that Evanston feels that Park Ridge is the link to get Morton Grove and Niles because if Park Ridge is involved they will save more money. He said that they have hired Bill Balling, the previous Manager of Arlington Heights, to look at the Glenview/Wilmette plan. Mr. Stoneback said that a letter from the Mayor is now being mailed to the Mayor of Park Ridge and all of the Trustees, their Village Manager, and the Public Works Director, showing them why they should go with Evanston, and a similar letter will be sent to Niles and Morton Grove, but the letters will also compare Evanston to Glenview/Wilmette.

c. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Ideas on development of a city water use efficiency policy for city buildings

Mr. Stoneback said that Ms. Hurley and he are putting together a grant application for the CDBG to do the Low Flow Toilet Replacement Program in the

specific CDBG areas. He said that the City would obtain quotes to purchase low flow toilets from a company in Evanston, and then they would put out a bid to hire an Evanston plumbing company that would install the toilets and return the old toilets to be recycled, all paid for by the CDBG grant. He said that they are also looking to do a Rain Barrel Program, where an Evanston business would be hired to deliver and install rain barrels, free again to residents in those same areas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Inactive task: Work plan item 1.2 Develop a plan to reduce energy consumption at the water treatment plant – Item complete pending pump replacement schedule**

- b. **Inactive task: Work plan item 1.3 Develop a baseline for energy consumption in municipal buildings update – Status of energy consumption database update and update of the Aukman report**

- c. **Inactive task: Work plan item 2.2 Reduce the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewers in sandy subsoil areas of the City – Item complete pending the annual report of the Director of Public Works on the Complete and Green Network Approach for Construction Projects in the Public Right of Way**

- d. **Inactive task: Work plan item 2.4 Evaluate the potential impact of pending USEPA sewer/water regulations on the sewer system and water treatment plant**

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Water 4.0 The Past, Present, and Future of the World’s Most Vital Resource by David Sedlak**
Mr. Rosenberg passed around the Water 4.0 book by David Sedlak, which he had previously distributed an excerpt from to the Commission members, and recommended that they read the book. Mr. Stoneback said that architect, Mike Vasilko, gave a copy of the book to each of the Aldermen.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Price
Executive Secretary
Utilities Department