



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2013, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St,
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Grumman, D. Lanyon, M. Landis, E. Rosenberg, M. Smith
Members Absent: N. Fracasso, J. Nieuwsma
Staff Present: C. Hurley, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Presiding Member: D. Lanyon

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:14 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 14, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the June 14, 2013 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 rating system – Next steps – Report on meeting with the Evanston Chamber of Commerce and discussion of next steps**
Chair Lanyon reported that Mr. Nieuwsma, Mr. Smith and he had a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce on June 24th. He said that there was not a lot of interest on the part of the Chamber to participate in this project, and that this initiative is not going to move forward with the Chamber's support. Chair Lanyon said that the next approach would be to identify the top twenty energy users and reach out to them and to the Downtown Evanston Organization to try and garner their interest and participation. Mr. Stoneback said that he would provide a list of the twenty highest water users and they could surmise from there who the top twenty energy users are.
- b. **Work Plan Item 1.2 Develop a plan to reduce energy consumption at the water treatment plant – Status of additional response from Baxter & Woodman**
Mr. Stoneback said that he spoke with the Baxter & Woodman representative about a week ago, and she said that she thought the report had already been sent to him and would email it again. He said that he has still not received the report to date but believes it will be forthcoming.
- c. **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 Aukeman report**
Ms. Hurley said that the Northwestern University Intern entered as much data as possible into the Energy Star Portfolio Manager before the school quarter ended but, some of the data is missing. Ms. Hurley said that she would send a link to the Commission members and that they could start looking at the data that is there without having the baseline data so they can follow up on some of the improvements that were identified on the Aukeman Report. Mr. Stoneback said that he would ask ComEd for the missing data. Ms. Hurley stated that Mr. Stoneback is starting to receive complete data

from ComEd for the buildings now so, moving forward looking at year to year usage should be much easier.

d. Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Schedule for meeting with the Robert Crown Center

Chair Lanyon said that Mr. Freeman and he will be meeting with the Robert Crown Center within the next two weeks. Mr. Stoneback said that he will provide water usage data to Mr. Freeman upon his request.

e. Work Plan Item 2.2 Reduce the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewers in sandy subsoil areas of the City – Funding opportunity through the MWRD

Chair Lanyon said that he sent out a letter that he found on the MWRD website about the installation of rain gardens at local high schools. He said the initiative is not going forward with the District, it has been deferred. Mr. Stoneback stated that Evanston Township High School installed a rain garden 3 or 4 years ago. He said that they collect the stormwater from a large area of their facility and put it into an underground basin which they then use for irrigating their fields. Mr. Stoneback reported that the City submitted an application with the MWRD for a grant for a project to remove stormwater from the sewer system in Evanston with the Civic Center parking lot. He said that he does not know when he will hear back from them.

f. Work Plan Item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure – Proposed projects for 2014

Mr. Stoneback said that schedule for the proposed projects for 2014 has not significantly changed. He noted that the 48" Intake Improvement project, based on design is estimated to cost more than what was anticipated so the funding was increased. He said that they have an IEPA loan application on this project that is getting held up because the Corps of Engineers have not signed off on it yet. He said that the Plant Reliability project is the new name being used for the Flash Mix project, and that the AMR project, replacement of the MTUs, is the big project this year. He said that it is moving along very well, but will go into next year as well. He said the Roof Repair project, initially showed that one roof was to be repaired and the other replaced but it was determined that both roofs need to be replaced so, one will be replaced this year and the other one will be replaced next year. He said that the Proposed Transmission Main to Lincolnwood was added and would only be built if Lincolnwood signs a water supply agreement. He said that the 14 Million Gallon Reservoir is a new item based on a report of the condition of the existing 5 million gallon reservoir. He said that he believes that it will not be able to be repaired and will need to be replaced. Mr. Stoneback said that the other big item that was added is the 30" Feeder Main Replacement, and that this main pretty much originates at the Water Plant and goes to downtown Evanston. Mr. Stoneback said he will present to Administration & Public Works on July 22nd.

Mr. Stoneback said that the Sewer Capital Improvement projects remain the same and they will only be completed if they receive the IEPA loans to pay for them.

g. Work Plan Item 2.4 Evaluate the potential impact of pending USEPA sewer/water regulations on the sewer system and water treatment plant

No action was taken.

h. Program to incorporate local renewable energy and/or efficiency benefits in the next aggregation contract after 2013 next steps

Mr. Stoneback said that the City now has a contract with Exelon which became Constellation to provide energy to 13 or 16 City owned facilities that will expire in May of 2014. He said that prices are starting to drift up so he would like to start getting prices in November or December and get locked into a price beginning in June 2014.

STAFF REPORTS

a. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns and Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2013 improvement projects

Mr. Stoneback said that there was a fairly heavy storm in June that caused power outages but they were not at the circuit level so he did not receive an email from ComEd about them.

Mr. Stoneback reported that the Technical Review Group (TRG) met with ComEd on May 10th. He said that ComEd showed the group how they are becoming modernized by developing a GPS system and doing diversification of their system in Evanston, and they provided information about their Energy Infrastructure Act.

Mr. Stoneback said that there was only one water main break in June on Prairie Avenue. He said that it was the fourth break on that line and that Prairie Avenue is going to be resurfaced this year. He said that the resurfacing contract was already awarded before the last two breaks occurred and that the water main was not scheduled to be replaced.

Mr. Stoneback said that there was one basement backup on Wesley Avenue that was due to the lining work taking place on Emerson Street. He said that all other basement backups were determined to be private lateral problems.

Mr. Stoneback reported that the Master Meter project is out for bid now, and that the Water Main Replacement project was split into two projects called CIP I and CIP II and that both of those projects have been bid and have come back \$700,000 less than the engineer's estimate which will be used to pay for the Davis Street Water Main Replacement project which came in at \$700,000 more than the engineer's estimate. He said that the CIPP Sewer Rehabilitation project is moving along fine, the Sewer Repairs on Street Improvements are part of the CIP I and CIP II projects and came in right on price. He said that the funding for the Relief Sewer extensions is being used for the porous pavement on Davis Street, in the parking lane, and that the Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation project is moving along fine and the Davis Street Utility Improvements project is moving along slowly. Mr. Stoneback said that the Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation project is a new project that they are proceeding with because they received funding from the IEPA.

b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback said that he received a telephone call from a consultant hired by Niles, Morton Grove, and Park Ridge to check out water supply. He said that they are continuing to do their due diligence, as is Des Plaines. Mr. Stoneback said that he had another meeting with the Northwest Water Commission who are contemplating renewing their contract. He said that they are very interested in protecting the four original community members and making sure that they have a good water rate for years to come beyond their current contract, and potentially selling water to other municipalities as well. He said that everyone is doing their due diligence but that he is confident that they will not find anyone who can provide the service at a cheaper rate. He said that he told all of the partners that he would like to know their decision by the end of this year.

c. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Status of actions to implement recommendations in CMAP report

Ms. Hurley said that the Utilities Department staff has completed the Evanston Tap Water Station. She said that it has three sinks on each side and has inside and outside water conservation tips listed on the sides. She said that three water filling stations have already been installed in the Civic Center and the rest of the building should be getting them shortly. She said that they had another successful participation in National Drinking Water Week, that not only did they have the art contest and photo contest but they also had all sorts of activities with the community centers and articles online that were really well received. She said that updates to the water bill are being made making it easier to read water usage and providing a space for water conservation tips and facts. Mr. Stoneback said that the next stage as they move over to the new water billing system is to have a web portal so homeowners can see and analyze their past water usage. Mr. Stoneback reported that the Evanston Tap Water Station was at the 4th of July Parade, the Fountain Square Arts Festival all weekend long, and the Starlight Concerts. He said that it will be at the recycling Fair this weekend, the Ethnic Arts Festival, and many other festivals, concerts and events in Evanston. Ms. Hurley said that they are looking for sponsors to provide reusable water bottles that can be handed out at the Community Picnic in August.

d. Status of the second year contract for community aggregation electrical energy supply

Mr. Stoneback indicated that the rollover to the new energy supplier is proceeding on schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Suggestions for use of proceeds from the sale of water to new customers

There were no suggestions.

b. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting

Mr. Rosenberg expressed interest in a new initiative to explore the actual electrical energy usage for street lighting. Some commission members believed that city street lights were on longer than necessary. An attempt will be made to compare actual energy usage with the calculated usage per the ComEd billing procedure. Mr. Lanyon had previously distributed information on this topic from Mr. Batara of ComEd. Mr. Stoneback said that he will invite Tom Twigg, Traffic Operations Manager, of the Public Works Department to attend the September Utilities Commission meeting to get a better understanding of the mechanism of billing for street lighting and traffic signals. Chair Lanyon said that he would ask Jeff Batara of ComEd for the hours that are used in the street light calculation and how other communities' street lights are handled.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Angela Price,

Executive Secretary
Utilities Department