



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2013, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St,
Large Conference Room

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

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:11 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 10, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the May 10, 2013 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved with a minor change.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

a. Forthcoming Utilities Department activities

Mr. Stoneback reported that the Utilities Department had a public tour of the Water Treatment Plant on June 8th and that another tour is scheduled for June 22nd. He said that the water trailer is almost finished and will be at the Evanston Fourth of July Parade. Mr. Stoneback said that someone won a behind the scenes tour of the water plant in an auction at the Evanston Green Ball.

b. Utilities Commission membership

Chair Lanyon reported that the recommendation for Mr. Rosenberg's appointment was approved at the City Council meeting on May 13th and welcomed him to the Utilities Commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy rating system – Next steps – Meeting scheduled with the Evanston Chamber of Commerce

Chair Lanyon said that he has a meeting scheduled with the Evanston Chamber of Commerce on June 24th. Mr. Grumman said that he has been working on a spreadsheet listing what other cities have developed but he is not sure if it will be completed by the 24th. Mr. Smith and Mr. Nieuwsma said that they would attend the meeting with Chair Lanyon.

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 still has not received a response from Baxter & Woodman.

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

Chair Lanyon said that Ms. Hurley was not able to attend today's meeting to provide an update, and that he has not drafted the letter to the City Manager yet but that he would have it ready in time for the next Utilities Commission meeting. Chair Lanyon said that he had a further discussion with Eleanor Revelle of Citizens' Greener Evanston, and that they are quite interested in signing on to the letter. He said that other organizations will

probably be interested in signing on as well, such as the Evanston Environmental Association and the Environment Board.

d. Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Response to questionnaire for additional water consumption data for city-owned buildings

Chair Lanyon stated that Mr. Freeman and he met with the Library last Tuesday. Mr. Freeman reported that John Devaney, Facilities Management Supervisor, said that the boilers were being refilled on the days that high usage was shown in February on the graph that was distributed at the last meeting, and might have accounted for the unusual usage on those days. Mr. Freeman said that Paul Gottschalk, Administration Services Manager, confirmed that housekeeping crews work at night until 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. Mr. Freeman said that he wants to take another snapshot during the warm weather to see the effects of the irrigation system which is on a timer. He said that they talked about ways to reduce the usage since the timer operates whether it has been raining for a week or not. Mr. Freeman said that the next step would be to get another sample of data for a more extended period of time, but that it appears that most of the water usage is by the occupants of the building. Mr. Freeman said that once he sees how the irrigation system contributes to what he's observed so far, he will move on to the Robert Crown Center. Chair Lanyon said that he will schedule a meeting with the Crown Center.

e. Work Plan Item 2.2 Reduce the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewers in sandy subsoil areas of the City – Plan to utilize the recommended strategies in the report from Hey & Associates

Chair Lanyon said that when he met with Ms. Revelle she expressed eagerness to reach out to some of the other organizations in the city, such as the garden clubs of Evanston, to encourage use of the Rain Garden Design Guidance. He said that this will be an ongoing effort.

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

Mr. Stoneback said that he is scheduled to present to the Administration and Public Works Committee on July 22nd to update the proposed projects for 2014. He said that he is starting to meet with the Finance Department now and get all of the data together in preparation. He said that he will have a list of the proposed projects for 2014 at the July Utilities Commission meeting. Mr. Stoneback said that the biggest challenge now is the 1934 reservoir, noting that the roof slab is completely deteriorated and that it will be a very expensive endeavor to replace it.

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

Mr. Nieuwsma said that he wanted to acknowledge Ms. Hurley's significant input with the three page memo that was distributed to the Commission members, as well as the input from the Environmental Law Policy Center (ELPC). He said that the primary objective that he was tasked with was to look at ways that the aggregation program can be used to continue to reduce the City's carbon footprint other than through Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). Mr. Nieuwsma said that the scope has expanded somewhat and they are now looking at other channels than aggregation through which the same goals might be accomplished while keeping the environmental benefits as close to home as possible.

Mr. Nieuwsma said that Ms. Hurley will present to the City Council on July 15th her annual update on the Evanston Climate Action Plan and that will include an update on what has been achieved with aggregation and an introduction to the goals, objectives, and concepts in the three page memo discussed today to plant some seeds with the Council and get some initial feedback from them. He said that two months' worth of community meetings are planned that will allow community input, and then Ms. Hurley will report back to the City Council in October with a more concrete proposal for the Council's action at that time. Mr. Nieuwsma said that by the time the next aggregation contract is up for bid, which will be February or March of next year, all of the ground work will have been weighed and hopefully will receive City Council approval.

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 were no reported power outages at the circuit level in May. He said that he received two complaints from residents on C416 about frequent, short duration outages causing flickering lights, and another resident on Barton whose residence is close to the transformer reported hearing a humming noise. Mr. Stoneback stated that Jeff Batara of ComEd is investigating these complaints.

Mr. Stoneback said that Mr. Batara provided him with another 2012 Annual Report. He said that this report contains a little more information than the one that they receive through the franchise, and that he would email it to the Commission members. He said that he also received a Load Shedding Plan which shows what steps would be taken in the event of rolling blackouts.

Mr. Stoneback reported that there were no water main breaks in May.

Mr. Stoneback said that there were a few basement backups in May. He said that there are a lot of sinkholes due to the last year's drought and the amount of rain that we have been having this year. Mr. Stoneback said that he met with MWH Americas, Inc. and that the models they used for the Long Range Sewer project are not readily available so, they will advise him of the cost to develop a new model from scratch and he will try to put it in the budget for next year.

Mr. Stoneback said that the Masonry Evaluation and Tuckpointing project is being deferred for now, the Intake Improvement project is under design, the AMI Replacement program is moving along pretty well and they should start replacing the MTUs towards the end of July or the beginning of August. He said that he will probably go out to bid in the fall for the Master Meter and Chemical Feed Improvement project, the Roof Projects are scheduled for later this year, and he hopes to make a recommendation on July 8th for the Flow Meters so, they are out to bid right now. He said that Greeley & Hansen has been hired for the Chlorine Equipment Replacement project, and they have had the kick-off meeting and are starting their design now. Mr. Stoneback reported that the first bids have come in for the Water Main Replacement project, the emergency sewer repair on Dobson has been completed, and the CIPP Sewer Rehabilitation project was awarded to SAK Construction. He said that the Relief/Storm Sewer Extensions project is being incorporated into the Davis Street Resurfacing project, including permeable pavement in the parking lanes. He said that the work has been completed on Central, Davis, Elgin, and Emerson Street for the Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation project and they are currently working on Prairie Avenue which will be finished by the end of July, and that the contractor has begun work on the Davis Street Utility Improvements project.

b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback said that the City Manager and he met with the Village of Lincolnwood a while ago and proposed a rate to them that included the cost of the expansion for the other potential wholesale water customers. He said that they have been provided with a revised estimate of what the rate would be since water plant expansion is not needed to meet their demand, which he believes will be more palatable to them. Mr. Stoneback said that they also met with the Public Works Directors from Niles, Park Ridge and Des Plaines. He said that they have not heard back from anyone yet but he believes that future meetings with each community are likely. Mr. Stoneback said that a meeting with the Northwest Suburban Municipal Joint Action Water Agency (NSMJAWA) was held a while ago but they have not heard anything back from them yet. He reported that the City Manager and he will also be meeting with the Northwest Water Commission on Monday.

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

Mr. Stoneback reported that water bottle filling stations have been installed as part of the restroom upgrades on the third and fourth floor at the Civic Center.

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

Mr. Stoneback said that there was a mix up with dual letters being sent out to residents, one letter stating that they were automatically enrolled and another letter stating that they needed to opt-in if they wanted to participate in the program. He said that it took three days for Verde to acknowledge there was an issue but, it has been corrected and a new letter has been sent out to residents.

NEW BUSINESS

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

There were no new suggestions at this time.

b. Metering of street lights

Mr. Rosenberg said that Ms. Hurley mentioned that the street lights are not metered and are paid for based on some estimated efficiency of the fixtures and how many there are. He asked whether it is feasible for them to be metered, and if it is, he would like the Commission to look into it, and if it is not, he would like to see if there is a more accurate or current reporting that can be done. Mr. Stoneback responded that this is something that they could go out for bid on, and that he would like to work with the Village of Skokie since their Public Works Director and he have communicated about this before. Mr. Stoneback said that he would send an email to Mr. Batara asking him to send in his expert who can explain how the City is billed for street lights. Chair Lanyon indicated that he would send to the commission information he received from Mr. Batara on street lighting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Angela Price,

Executive Secretary
Utilities Department