

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on February 2, 2021 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:43 p.m.

**PRESENT: Committee Members:** Chair Joanne Krejci, Vice Chair Jeremy Dietrich, Mike Vos; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Jessica Fenos, Linda Barath; Vince Weimer **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Law Director Thomas Kelly, City Engineer Justin Haselton, Wastewater Superintendent Mark Smith **Other:** John Nickell, Dan Langshaw, Jonah Pichette; C. Gibson Chen

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of January 5, 2021 Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays:0 **Motion carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Wastewater Treatment Plant B Proposal**

Mr. Smith states you wanted to know some of the terms. SSO is sanitary storm overflow; MGD is million gallons a day; MDQ is million gallons for equalization; H<sub>2</sub>S is Hydrogen Sulfite. Another question of how will the expenses impact the City's debt capacity, that is preliminary because we really don't know what capacity would affect, but Mr. Dean can answer that question.

Mr. Dean states we are in good shape, we paid off all of our loans that we took out in the 90s. Currently all of our debt is with OWDA. We have two projects that we are looking to be finalized. Those projects along with the influent pump station which are a pretty decent size. Once those are done, our debt will be around \$900,000.00 a year which is lot better than it used to be. I did a quick scenario of a 10-million-dollar loan, I estimated it at 2%, it will be about \$700,000.00 a year in payments. I think it is doable with our current rate structure, it will be less than 20% of our collections. Any project you decide on, we can work with and support.

Mr. Smith states there is another question on any projection on how it would impact operating expenses. This is my personal opinion, and I think the report backs this up. We will save significant amount of money because we will eliminate that plant being a plant. We reduce staffing, we wouldn't have to have all the equipment that runs now, sampling – we would not have a permit over there, and it would reduce a lot of cost. We would not have to replace equipment. In the next three to five years, you will have to make it a pump station or build a new plant. What is the distance of the pipe needed? It is 2.5 miles of pipe. You asked about the Parma developments – whatever comes into Plant B, it automatically comes to Plant A. Right now, we transport our sludge with a tanker and that will no longer need to be done, it will all be pumped down the line. In doing so on that pipe, we are going to increase 24 residents and then we will be able to get that commercial property sewerred. You have 250 acres of choice property that you can get sewerred. Then, you can get someone interested in doing something on that property. That would be included in the Plant B pump station. Dr. Chen has told me from his study that line was not properly put in the first place, that it why it never really worked. We would not use that line.

**Dr. C. Gibson Chen**

Mr. Chen states typically wastewater treatment deals with the flow which is very reactive and when we convert to a pump station it is very proactive. We can use the variable pump to pump a large capacity.

Mr. Smith states Plant A and Plant B are a 24-hour operation, we have someone if during the day for 8 hours a day, but the operators at Plant A always check Plant B at least once to twice a shift. We had an issue; it would be addressed immediately. If you had a problem at a pump station, you always have a backup pump. You don't just put one pump there, that will not be an issue. If you lose power, we have backup generators.

**John Nickell, 10092 Hawley Drive**

Mr. Nickell states I live in Ward 1. Ms. Fenos knows of the problems there and some of the encouraging things down at the bottom of Hawley, Gregory, Lynn. They always seem to get the flooding besides the stormwater. Maybe that is always sucking the sanitary water out of there pipes so they aren't getting that in their homes. Secondly, more out of curiosity because we did have that pipe hit, how are you crossing the turnpike, how are you getting to the turnpike?

Mr. Smith states we have a 36-inch line at the bottom of that hill, it will come right behind service. As far as Hawley, Gregory and Lynn we are in the process of doing a study over there now. Dr. Chen is working on that as we speak. He will have a summary for us, hopefully in a couple weeks.

**NEW BUSINESS****1. Water Main Breaks and Cleveland Water Department**

Mr. Wos states we had some issues recently, in both Ward 5 and 6, on Bennett Road. But a week or two ago, we had an issue a main rupture on Bennett and Lytle. Prior to that there had been water seeping up from the road and there had been another issue over by Nottingham. I have people telling me they had issues with underground water seepage causing their driveways to heave up. They think we have a watermain issue in that vicinity. It seems to be something with the infrastructure that needs to be worked on. Wondering what our course of action is with the Cleveland Water Department to deal with these types of things because we are talking about paving roads to make sure that the mains are in proper working order before they go tearing the streets up and cutting into the pavement.

Mr. Weimer states we first noticed the issue with the water main issues on Bennett Road not even a month after Bennett Road had been repaved. Right at the intersection of Morningstar and Bennett. There was a little geyser of water that started to trickle up from the asphalt about a month after we repaved the whole road, it went like that for days. Cleveland Water came out and dug a huge hole in the brand-new asphalt that we just laid and fixed the leak in the water main. The same thing happened at Nottingham where they had to cut another big hole on a relatively new section of road to fix a water main. This past one turned into a two-day ordeal where they had Bennett Road for a full day because they fixed one water main leak and it caused another one, then they had to shut off seven different valve points. We had mud and ice all over the place. What Mr. Wos and I started asking is what recourse do we have with Cleveland Water? They had an opportunity to address their aging infrastructure when they had the road ripped up and they chose not to. It is my understanding that they fought us on it, and now it is coming back and biting us, we have a relatively new section of Bennett that has a bunch of holes in it and when they come back in and do the patches, they don't always do the best job of patching the road to the standards that I would expect. I feel like we are spending money on repaving roads and the Water Department just doesn't care. They are okay with the infrastructure to just explode. What recourse do we have as Council?

Mayor states I have talked to someone at Cleveland Water, they have all the records of all repairs, our next step is they have grants that we can apply for. We can look at the records, talk to Cleveland Water and address it.

**2. Wastewater Department vehicle/equipment purchase**

- **Gap Vac Vector Truck – \$99,000 and \$289,463**

Mr. Smith states I mentioned the vehicle before, we would have one for storm and one for sanitary. We got a good price on this because we had the chassis made by one company and the vector made by another, it saved us about \$100,000.00. Freightliner will make the chassis and the body. MTech will put the gap back on it and saves us about \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00. It is still warrantied the same. It will make us more efficient doing our job. It could be six months to a year before we get it.

Mr. Wos states I have received a number of complaints, people on Wiltshire are starting to experience the smell over on that area again. This last time it was the former Fire Chief Fabish that contacted me to let me know. My understanding is that Broadview Heights adds a chemical to the water. Mr. Smith indicated that

they stop doing that. Mr. Wos asked is their pump station not working properly? What is the situation that causes the waste to hang around the line and go septic and everyone complains about the smell, is there anything we can do about it?

Mr. Smith states we discussed that today, it is on Broadview Heights. All we can do is call and see if they are performing everything they can. What they did was go from a bigger pump to a small pump to make it pump more frequently. But you still have a sludge there and it gets septic in there. I think they went to a smaller size pump to cut costs on the chemical. We cannot force them. We went out there and plugged all of our lids so the odor won't come through the lid. We have put some deodorant out there.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Ms. Krejci seconded by Mr. Wos **to adjourn the February 2, 2021 meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0.

**Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.**