

**NORTH VERNON
UTILITY SERVICE BOARD MEETING
June 21, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

Board Members Terms: Terry Thompson (R) (M) 12/31/2021, Barbara Patterson 12/31/2021 (R) (M), Warren Alexander (R) (M) 12/31/2021, Patrick Kirchner 12/31/2021 (D) (C), Matt Hurley (D) (C) 12/31/2021

The North Vernon Utilities Service Board met on June 21, 2021 at the North Vernon City Hall. Members present: Terry Thompson, Patrick Kirchner, Barbara Patterson, and Warren Alexander.

Also attending the meeting: Russell Vaught Wastewater Superintendent, William Spencer Water Superintendent, Chris Doran Attorney, Larry Greathouse Attorney, Kayla Zimmerman Attorney, Nikki Hatfield Administrative Assistant, Cara Byerley Office Manager. Via ZOOM: Shawn Gerkin, Clerk Treasure, Sue Haase, Mike Gangstad with Lochmuller, and Mike Wigger with Terracon.

The agenda given to each Utility Service Board Member is as follows:

- I. **Pledge:** Terry Thompson leads the pledge.
- II. **Roll Call:** Matt Hurley is absent.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Pat Kirchner makes a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with the amendment of the location, the meeting was held at City Hall not the ETC. Terry Thompson seconds. 4-0.
- IV. **Public Comment:** N/A
- V. **Storm Water Report:** Russell Vaught reports there was heavy rain over the weekend. Russell Vaught reports that the Woodlawn area has gotten worse; the Wastewater Department has poured concrete to help with the issues. Mike Gangstad with Lochmuller Group reports that he has gotten with Mike Wigger from Terracon. Mike Gangstad reports that the system is complicated, they have talked about doing a study to see what is under ground, then they can look at alternatives and potential solutions. Mike Wigger gives a presentation to the board regarding sink holes near the Woodlawn area. Pat Kirchner asks how long the study would take. Mike Wigger reports that it could take about a month and they would request the city to place flags. Russell Vaught reports that the customers in the area seem willing to work with the process. Mike Gangstad and Mike Wigger report that they can have the proposal by the next meeting on July 6th. Harold Combs presents pictures to the board; showing what they have done to temporarily help with the issue due to the cave system under Woodlawn. Harold Combs reports that he spoke with the homeowner today, they watched it during the weekend storms. They would like to see a more permanent fix. Russell Vaught reports that the easement for the Crestwood area has been signed and recorded; Tara has everything she needs from us.
- VI. **Wastewater Department Reports & Info:**

- **Collection System:** Russell Vaught reports that there have been a couple calls. Russell reports of a customer that is not wanting to put a clean out at the right of way. Russell reports that if there is a clean out at the right away and they snake it and there is not an issue then that shows that any potential sewer issues are not on the Cities side. This helps to determine whose situation it is to fix. Pat Kirchner reports that in this situation the customer had an existing line, the customer is wanting to hook onto that line. There is a cleanout at the house and a check valve. Pat reports that they will have to dig up the line to find it and add a cleanout. Terry Thompson reports that we have these standards for a reason and believes that we need to stay consistent. Warren Alexander suggests that we stick with the standards. Pat suggests that it should be based on a case-by-case bases due to extenuating situations. There is continued discussion regarding the situation. Russell reports that they will TV the line to help determine where it is located. Russell reports that on 300N a customer has put in his own stormwater drainage. A customer called to report it. At this time the Wastewater department is unaware of the location that it has been tied into.
- **Treatment Plant:** Russell reports that they removed all of the sludge from the Wastewater Plant. Russell reports that they did pass there biomonitoring testing; this is a yearly test. Russell reports that they had hired a new employee, he started Monday.

VII. Water Department & Treatment Plant:

- **Distribution System:** Will reports that all of the service lines on Harms Street have been switched over to the new main. Will reports that there are 5 properties on Woodside Drive that need to be moved to the new main. Will reports that they will be talking with those customers to get their easements signed. Will reports that there is a \$2700.00 claim from Country, there was a door that needed to be replaced. Will reports that we received the lead and copper samples back. There were two areas that exceeded the levels. They are not in violation. Will reports that we will be testing more frequently due to hooking onto the quarry. Will reports that he has had two customer complaints in the Quaker hills neighborhood. Will reports that these customers were complaining that the water was stale and making their children and dog's sick. Will reports that they did necessary testing; everything cleared. Will reports that he drank the water himself. Will reports that his employees will deliver the testing results to the customers.
- **Treatment Plant:** Will reports that they have finished there testing with the coagulant. Will reports that the results were a little lower than anticipated. Will reports of a Proposal from Bainbridge consulting, this proposal is for the removal of 200,000 gallons of sludge. There is discussion regarding removing the sludge. Will reports that this was a major deficiency on the last inspection. Warren Alexander makes a motion for Will to proceeded. Terry Thompson seconds. 4-0. Will reports that he and Russell have a meeting with the Wastewater inspector from IDEM at the water plant to go over any issues he might have to help rectify these issues. Will asks for permission to pay the claim in the amount of \$4125.00 due to a Wastewater fine from the last inspection at the Water Plant in October 2020. There

is discussion regarding the fine and inspection. Pat Kirchner makes a motion to pay the fine if things don't get worked out. Warren Alexander seconds. Warren adds that in the future we try contacting someone else if we can't get a hold of our direct inspector to avoid paying a fine. 4-0.

VI: Utility Administration Report:

- **Claims and Transfers:** Terry Thompson asks about a large claim, WS reports that it is a contractual claim. Pat Kirchner makes a motion to approve the claims. Barb Patterson seconds. 4-0. Terry Thompson reports that there are transfers for the Water Department. Warren Alexander makes amotion to approve the transfers. Pat Kirchner seconds. 4-0.
- **Sue Haase:** Sue Haase gives an update regarding the consumer price index and proforma expectations.

VII: Unfinished Business:

- **Chris Doran:** Nikki Hatfield has prepared a document that shows four customers that were sent to Chris Doran for past due amounts. Chris Doran wanted the board's approval to file suit due to not knowing these customers whereabouts. Chris Doran reports that even if we file, we don't have any guarantee to get our money back. There is discussion regarding the accounts. Terry Thompson suggests that we file a judgement to try and collect. Pat Kirchner makes amotion to move forward and file a judgement on these customers. Terry Thompson seconds. 4-0.
- **City Council update:** Terry Thompson reports that there was a reading of the storm water grant, it was approved.
- **Shawn Gerkin: N/A**

VIII: New Business:

- Larry Greathouse introduces the Utility Service Board Attorney, Kayla Zimmerman, to the board.
- Russell Vaught reports of a company that came in last week, they will be doing a demo of a camera that can look in the lines on the vactor.
- Pat Kirchner wanted to add: He did not tell any customers that they didn't have to follow the Construction Standards and that he wouldn't tell someone that. Pat reports that if someone uses his name, he would like for the Utilities Staff to contact him.

Barb Patterson makes a motion to adjourn. Warren Alexander seconds. 4-0

X 

Terry Thompson
Utility Service Board Chairman

X 7/6/2021
Date

X 

Nikki Hatfield
Utility Board Secretary

X 7/6/2021
Date