

MINUTES OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
October 15, 2019

The October 15, 2019 Utilities Committee meeting was called to order by Rob Kairis at 6:20 P.M. Present were: Bruce Ribelin, Amy Michael, Scott Rainone, Andrew Kluge and Joe Bica. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Frank Seman; Director of Public Service, Kay Dubinsky; Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Christina West of 732 Eastland Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio; Tim Calfee of 910 Murray Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio, and Cliff Soudil of 464 Woodland Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio.

Mr. Kairis said the first item on the agenda is a request for valve replacements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Finney explained that the wastewater plant has very large slide gate valves. There are three or four that haven't functioned for quite a while. Mr. Bregant has received prices to replace those. This is Phase I or a two phase project. These are the most important part of the project. It was budgeted for next year but it was important enough, Mr. Bregant wanted to get it done this year. The request is to appropriate \$20,000.00. Without these in place, they can't isolate certain areas of the plant. These are very big steel wheels and it takes two employees to operate it. They are just worn out.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action.

Mr. Kairis said the next item is a request to bid chemicals for the water and wastewater treatment plants for the year 2020.

Ms. Dubinsky said this is an annual request to bid out the chemicals for the two plants.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action.

Mr. Kairis said the next item on the agenda is the shared utility interconnection policy and procedure between the City of Ravenna and Portage County Water Resources. A copy of the policy and procedure was sent to all of council prior to the meeting.

Ms. Dubinsky explained that the purpose of this is, wherever there is joint data capturing devices which are shared between the City and the County, where inspections, data gathering, calibrations, etc., has to be done, there are representatives from both the County and the City on site. During the even years, the City would be responsible for any replacements or repairs. There is a resolution that will be needed approving of this policy but no appropriations are needed.

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Mr. Finney said an example of this would be on South Scranton Street where the wastewater flows into the City's system. That runs through a meter. Recently that meter came up deficient. They didn't know whose meter it was or who was responsible for it. The County then had to reimburse the City when it was determined that the meter had not been calibrated for a number of years. An agreement such as this, now fixes who is responsible for what and when.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action.

Mr. Finney asked to add an item. Mr. Bregant has an issue with the Maplewood lift station. It was installed in 2002. There are two pumps. This lift station only handles Maplewood Vocational School. Two years ago, the impellers were replaced. They are disintegrating for some reason. They are requesting \$20,000.00 from the Sewer Fund to make sure this will function the way it has previously. They believe it has something to do with what is leaving the school. They are going to schedule a meeting with Mr. McKenzie this week. They purchased some valves, etc., and it was worked on this Saturday. It worked fine until 11:30 on Monday morning when the school starting putting more flow out. Then the pumps started to fail again. As soon as that flow diminished, they flushed the line out and the pumps started working the way they are supposed to. They are going to be working with the school to see what operations they have changed. They are able to track it back a couple of years when they started having trouble with the pumps. Pumps should really go for many, many years. It could be a chemical they are discharging that is creating foam, which slows down the pump. They just don't know what it is. One of the issues they saw in the summertime, it could have been a floor cleaning solution or something a contractor put in but it happened the other day and no contractor had been working. Mr. Bregant has quotes to replace the pump and valves completely and there will be labor involved.

Mr. Bica asked if Maplewood participates in the pretreatment program.

Mr. Finney responded he didn't know and would have to ask Mr. Bregant. The cafeteria should have a separator.

Mr. Bica said there is a lot of new stuff going on at the school and it's hard to say what is now going down the sewer.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action.

There being no further items to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 6:29 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Paul Moskun, Chairman
Utilities Committee