

Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners
February 25, 2015
4:30 p.m.

Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: Wastewater Treatment Facility
115 Water Street

Present:

Commissioners: Chairman David Hanlon; Commissioners Roger Jones, John Tomasz, Robert Cook @ 4:36

Staff: Tony Furnari, DPS Director; Joe Dugan, Chief Operator, Tom Smolski, Superintendent Water Operations, Dan Lynch, Distribution Manager, Jamie Tuccolo, Collection System Superintendent; Kathe Talkington, Administrative Office Manager; Jon-Eric White; Bob Bradbury, Assistant Chief Operator

Guest: Mayor Donna Holaday @ 4:46; Pieter Hartford, OPM

1. Mayor Holaday

Postponed until Mayor's arrival

3. Approval of Minutes/Bills/Transfers

December 17 2014

Commissioner Tomasz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the December 17, 2014 minutes as presented. Vote: 3 yes

6 City Engineer's Report

Jon-Eric White informed the Commission:

- Nick Pepe has resigned and is now working for National Grid.
- vacant position will be posted
- Admin Building – waiting for final comments

Chairman Hanlon asked if there is a storm water enterprise fund. Mr. Furnari replied funding is on Highway Budget. He added there is a committee established and Stantec is helping

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to accept the City Engineer's report as presented.

Vote: 4 yes

2. Appointments/Customer Issues

Geordie Vining – Clipper City Rail Trail Phase II

Geordie Vining reviewed plans for the Clipper City Rail Trail Phase II with the Commission:

- Phase 2 – Parker Street – Central Water Front
- Federal and State funding
- Project out to bid late summer
- Worked with Wastewater staff on landscaping
- Yacht Club gate needs to be moved

Mr. Vining requested the Commission approve a Temporary Construction Easement so that the work could proceed.

Chairman Hanlon asked the Commissioners for comments.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to grant a Temporary Construction Easement during construction of the Clipper City Rail Trail Phase II.

Vote: 4 yes

Mr. Vining noted that the area where the American Yacht Club (AYC) stores boats needs to be moved. The City owns the land and AYC has a lease for \$3585.00 per year. Mr. Vining has spoken with the Mayor and proposes that the Commission approves shifting the leased area from the railroad corridor to the old American Marine site at 115 Water Street.

Commissioner Cook asked if the AYC has looked at the proposal. Mr. Vining replied that AYC has looked at the proposal. Mr. Vining added that the AYC needs space for storage.

Chairman Hanlon noted that the lease is year to year. Mr. Vining added that the City's solicitor will make changes to the lease language showing the new location and transferring the lease revenue to DPS Sewer Division.

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commission Tomasz to approve the changes to the year to year lease with the American Yacht Club changing the location of the leased land to a portion of the adjacent surplus land next to the former American Marine building and to change the recipient of the lease revenue from the City to the DPS – Sewer Division.

Vote: 4 yes

Chairman Hanlon requested that the finalized documents from the City Solicitor be distributed to the Commission.

1. Mayor Holaday

Mayor Holaday updated the Commission on Plum Island issues:

- litigation moving slowly
- staff has had to spend too many hours establishing protocol with CDM-Smith
- approximately two weeks ago, realized sewer system losing vacuum
- staff working 24/7 with two 16-hour crews
- three AirVac staff members on-site
- receiving great support from Governor's Office, MEMA and other state agencies
- received plowing help from state
- Lt. Governor and Attorney General in daily contact with Mayor
- AirVac is preparing report on current issues
- public needs education on how system works
- approximately 60 families in hotel
- MIIA helping with backups
- meeting with legislative team scheduled for Friday, February 27th
- held conference all with DEP on problems with system
- looking at SRF funding

Commissioner Cook asked if there is any difference between the insulated and non-insulated pits. Mr. Tuccolo not really and system only going to get worse as it ages.

Mr. Tuccolo noted the following:

- pumps going 24 hours per day
- seven feet of snow major issue
- valves were frozen open

- hubs should have been placed off road
- valves in chambers are frozen
- staff couldn't respond fast enough due to storms resulting in water logged system that then froze
- requested funding for alarms last year
- teams of residents working on shoveling out candy canes and hydrants
- fixed (take apart and rebuild) 21 valves on February 25
- controllers have 5-year life expectancy; body 10 years

Chairman Hanlon noted that staff are working are multiple fronts:

1. public health issues
 - residents happy with hotels (temporary housing)
 - residents are beyond their breaking point
 - ServiceMaster staff on-site to assist with cleanups
 - Bob Bracey working with Service Master
2. need to maintain good record of costs for recouping
3. AirVac Report
 - high level staff and techs will prepare report
 - DEP and City staff will assist with report
 - flush out details for future crisis
 - debrief what worked and didn't
4. outcomes
 - possible design system or parts of system
 - alarm system

Mr. Tuccolo noted that if system was alarmed, staff could have handled the initial call which happened during a snow storm.

Mr. Tuccolo noted that CDM didn't listen to AirVac when designing the system. AirVac said system should have alarms and be installed off the road. Chairman Hanlon noted that Brendan O'Regan, Margaret Bernier, Paul Ross (CDM) and a representative from DEP went to AirVac during design phase to gain knowledge whether the system would work in our climate. He added that the cost savings with AirVac versus gravity system was about 2M dollars.

Mr. Tuccolo noted that moving valve pits off road would be great but costly – maybe cheaper to change to gravity.

Chairman Hanlon asked the status of insulating the valve pits. Mr. Tuccolo replied that since 2008 more than 50% have been insulated. Finding the white candy canes in the snow is difficult. Jon-Eric White noted that a heat source in the valve pits would help. He suggested that chemical packs similar to the hand and foot warmers worn in boots could be used during cold weather.

Chairman Hanlon notes that the Commission and staff need to determine what can be altered or changed to avoid a repeat of this issue. He added part of the plan needs to include a pro-active maintenance program.

Mayor Holaday noted that residents are demanding some form of compensation – maybe waive customer service charge on future bill. The Mayor added that the City's insurance, homeowners' insurance and emergency relief all needs to be considered when reviewing cost.

Mayor Holaday noted that the staff has done a remarkable job dealing with this issue.

7. Director's Report

Mr. Furnari noted the following:

- many hours spent dealing with snow storms and the aftermath
- working with ServiceMaster on cleanups
- all Plum Island property owners notified by mail of situation
- working to keep PITA Hall for residents' use

Mr. White noted that maps are available to help residents locate their candy cane and to determine what properties are serviced by each valve pit.

Mr. Furnari noted that the Water crew has been working along with the Sewer crew on the Plum Island issues.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Director's Report as presented.

Vote: 4 yes

8. Sewer Chief Operator's Report

Joe Dugan presented the following:

- lots of problems
- heating system failed again
- Scada system failed
- Fournier problems
- solids at 17% which could be related to Scada
- possible polymer problems
- flood in 2nd pump room
- David McGrath promoted to Lab Tech
- Jim Moore promoted to Pretreatment Coordinator
- vacant operator position

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to accept the Chief Operator Report.

Vote: 4 yes

9. Sewer Pretreatment Report

Joe Dugan noted that sampling is ongoing and results are good.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Sewer Pretreatment Report as presented.

Vote: 4

10. Sewer Superintendent Report

Mr. Tuccolo requested the Commission sign Amendment #1 to BETA's Hale Street Force Main Replacement Design and Bidding Services agreement. Mr. Tuccolo noted that at the Commission's request a RFQ will be issued for the design and construction of the project.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Sewer Superintendent's report as presented and to approve and sign Amendment #1 to BETA's Hale Street Force Main Replacement Design and Bidding Services agreement.

Vote: 4 yes

11. Water Treatment Plant Report

Tom Smolski noted the following:

- reservoirs are at full capacity
- staff are attending training
- working on DEP annual report
- replaced 42-foot sodium hypochlorite line

Mr. Smolski noted that approximately 700-feet of caustic line will be changed out with Teflon tubing. Chairman Hanlon noted that if a fix is not found, the Director should be involved and perhaps a different consultant.

Mr. Furnari noted that Tom Smolski has been offered and accepted the Superintendent position.

Commissioner Jones asked who shovels the hydrants. Mr. Furnari replied that when not plowing or fixing water breaks Water Division staff shovel hydrants. He added that Dan Lynch and Jon-Eric White along with Fire Department staff have also been shoveling hydrants.

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to accept the Water Treatment Report as presented.

Vote: 4 yes

12. Water Construction Report

Mr. Lynch noted the following:

- staff plowing and hauling snow
- staff also assisting Sewer Division with Plum Island issues
- Mr. Lynch, Mr. White and Mr. Pepe shoveling hydrants

Mr. Lynch noted that in addition to the sewer line issues on Plum Island, water lines are also freezing. The main on 28th Street was buried 32-inches not the required 48-inches. The main will be relocated and lowered in the spring. Also, homeowners with nonfunctioning sewer systems were asked to run faucet, collect water into buckets and throw outside. Many have not done this and as a result their water lines are now frozen.

Mr. Lynch noted that he has met with Mr. Hartford to review the preliminary work on the State and Water Streets water main replacement project.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to accept the Water construction report as presented.

Vote: 4 yes

13. Water Treatment & WPCF Report/Updates

Water Treatment Project

Pieter Hartford noted that he and Tom Smolski are working with Doug Gove, AECOM and the original supplier of the caustic and sodium hypochlorite lines. Commissioner Cook asked if the pumps were positive displacement. Mr. Hartford replied that he thought so.

Mr. Hartford added that Phase III work is being closed out with some restoration work to be done in the spring.

WPCF Report

Mr. Hartford noted the following:

Contract 1: LEED Certificate appeal should be submitted in the next couple of weeks.

Contract 2: waiting for submittal of record drawing and O&M manual
neighbor pushed in fence when plowing and will repair in spring

Mr. Hartford noted GEI Consultants recommend installation of two additional monitoring wells at 115 Water St. since petroleum liquid was detected at one monitoring well. The cost for the additional two wells is \$9800.00

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to authorize GEI Consultants to install two additional monitoring wells at the 115 Water St. site.

Vote: 4 yes

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to accept the Water Treatment & WPCF Reports/updates as presented.

Vote: 4 yes

14. Plum Island Status/Update

Mr. Hartford noted nothing new to report

15. Old/New Business

None

16. Executive Session

None

17. Confirm Next Meetings

March 25, 2015

April 22, 2015

18. Adjournment

Commissioner Tomasz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn at 6:10.

Vote: 4 yes

19. Warrant and Contract Signing

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to reopen the meeting to indicate warrants approval by signature at 6:12.

Vote: 4 yes

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to adjourn the meeting at 6:13.

Vote: 4 yes

Submitted by:

Kathe Talkington