

WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING

June 16, 2022

The Water and Sewer Committee of Chardon City Council met on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 5:01 p.m. in Conference Room A of the Chardon Municipal Center.

Deborah Chuha, Chairman of the Water and Sewer Committee presiding.

Members of the Water and Sewer Committee present: Deborah Chuha, Daniel Meleski.

Others present: Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, Clerk of Council Amy Day, City Engineer Doug Courtney, Water/Sewer Supervisor Frank Taylor, Finance Director Mark Iacofano (via phone), Carl Emshoff, Trent Hertzfeld, Kyle Martin, Mark Holz.

Mrs. Chuha called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to accept the minutes of the September 30, 2021 meeting as presented. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the Rovysis onsite assessment summary for the WWTP and WTP network separation, Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, reported that representatives from Rovisys performed an assessment of the City's network infrastructure to determine the number of network switches connected to the City's Water and Sewer Department. It is the recommendation of Rovisys that networks be separated, incorporating new switches along with installing a new firewall. He stated that staff received a proposal from Rovisys to perform the recommended improvements, but due to the dollar amount and this work not included in the 2022 budget, it will likely have to wait until 2023. Staff will use this time to secure additional opinions and pricing from its other IT support services.

Regarding Maple Trace PRD request to use PVC water line materials,

Mark Holz representing Frontier Land Group, stated that he has requested the City allow him to use PVC pipe instead of ductile iron pipe for the installation of the water distribution mains within the Maple Trace PRD, mainly because of ductile iron pipe

delivery lead times.

Doug Courtney stated that the initial request made by Frontier Land Group in February was denied because the City is unfamiliar with the performance of the material over time and does not have PVC anywhere else in the City. He stated that ductile iron pipe is stronger than PVC and the City's primary concern is that the area being discussed is one of the highest working pressure areas in the City and has seen spikes in pressure. He stated that the City is not opposed to PVC pipe, but would rather use PVC as a test in another area of the City. If the Committee would like to consider PVC for this PRD, he would recommend it only be used as a test in Phase 1 of the development.

Mr. Hornyak stated that the reason this specification change is before the committee is that if the City does not consider allowing Frontier to use PVC, it may kill the project and staff is not willing to allow the use of PVC pipe.

Carl Emshoff, representing Emshoff Excavating, explained positive reasons to use PVC pipe. He explained that Ohio has acidic soils and corrodes ductile iron pipe quicker, and PVC is lighter which installs faster than iron.

Trent Hertzfeld, representing Utility Solutions Inc., spoke about the advantages of using PVC as compared to ductile iron.

Mr. Courtney asked about the lead times for PVC fittings.

Mr. Emshoff stated that PVC fittings are widely available.

Discussion began regarding the ability of PVC to handle internal pressures and surges in the system.

Mr. Meleski asked what surges occur and how they are measured.

Frank Taylor stated that a device is needed to be connected to measure a surge. He added that illegal tapping of hydrants causes surges.

Mr. Hornyak asked what is the deciding factor when using PVC in multi-use communities.

Mr. Hertzfeld explained that there are a number of issues that factor into the decision, but some communities like to use PVC in subdivisions so that it can be monitored.

Mr. Hertzfeld reviewed specifications and additional advantages when using PVC.

Mr. Taylor stated that he heard there are concerns of leaks with PVC caused by expansion and contraction.

Mr. Hertzfeld explained that improper installation and lower quality repair clamps is the cause of leaks.

Mr. Hornyak stated that the City is comfortable with using ductile iron pipe and has no issues using it. His concern is about the effect on the community if the City doesn't allow PVC to be used and the project is terminated. He is willing to work with the company to begin to use PVC over a period of time; however, they are asking for a decision to be made immediately. City staff would like more time to be able to make such an important decision.

Mr. Holz stated that he respects whatever decision the City makes and appreciates the opportunity to have the discussion.

Mr. Meleski inquired about the timeline for the project.

Mr. Courtney explained that the 1st Phase documents are being reviewed currently and are almost complete.

Mr. Meleski questioned how the City could mitigate risk to the system if an issue with PVC would occur.

Mr. Taylor stated that he believes the risk is not to the system, but is a financial risk to the City if complete pipe replacement would be necessary.

Mr. Holz stated that in 25 years he has not had an issue with PVC pipe.

Mr. Herzfeld reviewed the warranty on their product which is for 50 years and he reviewed the types of claims they have received, which have been small, localized areas.

The Committee discussed what types of assurances the manufacturer can provide.

Mr. Hornyak stated that he would appreciate more time to research the use of PVC. He requested that 1 or 2 comparable communities be located that use PVC at higher pressures in addition to

material costs for the product.

Regarding the Backup Generator replacement for the Burlington lift station, Mr. Hornyak stated that the existing backup generator at the Burlington Lift Station has a failing head gasket and replacement parts are no longer available. If the proposed Maple Trace Subdivision is added to the system, a larger generator would be needed to handle sanitary sewer flows south of the Woods of Burlington. Staff is recommending a larger generator that will handle the additional flows from Maple Trace at an estimated cost of \$24,000. If it is ordered now, it is estimated to take 1 year for delivery.

Mr. Meleski moved and Ms. Chuha seconded to recommend to Council that the City proceed with the purchase of a 70 kw backup generator. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the utility discount program, Finance Director Mark Iacofano, stated that in 2008, the City created a utility discount program for seniors and disabled persons based on total household income. Since that time, the income thresholds have not been adjusted, and due to current inflation, it may be an appropriate time to make an adjustment. He recommended the thresholds be adjusted as follows:

2008(Current)	Discount	2022(Proposed Levels)
Less than \$15,000	40%	Less than \$20,019
\$15,000 to \$19,999	35%	\$20,019 to \$26,691
\$20,000 to \$24,999	30%	\$26,691.01 to \$33,364
\$25,000 to \$29,999	25%	\$33,364.01 to \$40,037

Members of the Committee spoke in favor of adjusting the thresholds for the utility discount program.

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to accept the new rate proposal for the utility discount program based on the total household income as presented by the Finance Director. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none.

ADJOURN

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha moved seconded to adjourn the

meeting. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at_6:55 p.m.

Attest:

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council