

WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING

March 5, 2024

The Water and Sewer Committee of Chardon City Council met on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. in Conference Room A of the Chardon Municipal Center.

Heather Means, Chairman of the Water and Sewer Committee presiding.

Members of the Water and Sewer Committee present: Andrew Blackley, Heather Means.

Others present: Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, City Engineer Doug Courtney, Clerk of Council Amy Day, Finance Director Mark Iacofano, City Manager Randy Sharpe, Water/Sewer Superintendent Frank Taylor.

Ms. Means called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Blackley moved and Ms. Means seconded to accept the minutes of the September 28, 2023 meeting as presented. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding an update on EPA mandates of lead service line connections, Public Service Director, Paul Hornyak, provided background on the mandate, which the U.S. EPA has been trying to implement over the last 30 years. He added that their efforts became more stringent in 2021 when the Lead and Copper Rule Revision was established, which requires all water systems to prepare and maintain a service line inventory of the system and customer-owned portions. Once the inventory is completed, they would like any repair and replacement of lead or galvanized pipe and gooseneck connections to be completed within 10 years.

Mr. Hornyak reviewed the City's anticipated steps to complete the inventory of the service lines. He stated that staff is trying to establish when the City adopted the no-lead service line criteria and mandated copper service lines, so that locations may be eliminated from remedial action. He explained that even if lead service lines were not used, there are lead connectors that connect the service lines to the water mains.

Mr. Sharpe asked if galvanized pipe after the gooseneck will need to be replaced.

Water & Sewer Superintendent, Frank Taylor, stated that the EPA will require that galvanized pipe be replaced because it is soft and can absorb lead. He stated that the City does not believe that there are any lead service lines, however, there are lead goosenecks.

Ms. Means asked what the City's response is for people who are concerned about lead in their drinking water.

Mr. Taylor stated that the City adds phosphate to the water, which coats the pipes so that lead cannot be absorbed.

Mr. Blackley asked how long phosphate has been used by the City.

Mr. Taylor stated that the City has used phosphate for at least 40-50 years.

Regarding Water Street Sanitary Sewer in relation to Willo Tree PRD, Mr. Sharpe stated that he thought it would be helpful to review the water & sewer projects, of which there are 5, in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Discussion occurred regarding the Allynd Blvd. Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project.

Mr. Blackley asked about the criteria used to select Allynd Blvd. or Washington Street for replacement, and asked if the City has a rating system for its sanitary sewer lines. He stated that having a rating system would help decide which capital improvement projects are most important.

Mr. Hornyak stated that the mains are jetted and staff knows which are problematic and undersized.

Mr. Taylor stated that there are several maintenance issues on the Allynd sanitary sewer, which is very old.

Mr. Hornyak stated that a rating system is something staff would like to discuss with the Committee at a future meeting.

Mr. Taylor stated that the City's aggressive maintenance program eliminates a number of sanitary sewer backups. Roots being the primary concern.

Mr. Blackley stated that the rating system is based on televising the lines, noting that jetting the lines can help with litigation.

Discussion occurred regarding the prioritization of projects.

Mr. Blackley stated that he brought up the fact that for Willo Tree development to proceed with its first phase, they would have to install a pump station and 900 ft. of force main. He stated that the City Engineer prepared a cost estimate to upsize the Water Street sanitary sewer from 6" to 10" (\$998,900), but what is unknown is the potential cost for the developer and the property across the street for each of their pump stations.

Mr. Blackley stated that it seems wasteful for a developer to spend money on a pump station system that is his responsibility to maintain when that money could be leveraged for an improvement of the sewer on Water Street.

Mr. Courtney stated that he is waiting for information from Willo Tree about their anticipated costs for a pump station.

Mr. Taylor reviewed other private pump stations that exist in the City.

Mr. Blackley noted that future phases of Willo Tree will connect to the SW Sanitary Sewer.

Mr. Courtney explained that Phase 1 is not able to be tied to the SW Sanitary Sewer for grade reasons.

Mr. Blackley stated that minimum pump station standards should be established.

Ms. Means asked if the pump stations are inspected.

Mr. Blackley stated that they are not inspected, as the City only inspects what has been dedicated for public use.

Mr. Blackley stated that there is nothing additional for the Committee to do except to accept the information presented by staff and request cost estimates from the two developers that would be affected.

Mr. Courtney stated that he has asked Dusty Keeney for that information, but has not discussed this with George Paolucci.

Mr. Sharpe asked the City Engineer to request this information from Mr. Paolucci.

Mr. Blackley inquired about the possibility of a capital improvement loan for large-scale water and sewer capital improvements.

Mr. Sharpe stated that this can be looked at.

Discussion occurred regarding infill and infiltration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Means inquired about the status of the conversion of manual read meters to remote read meters.

Mr. Hornyak stated that there are less than 30 remaining.

Mr. Taylor stated that the remaining meters are mostly industrial and commercial meters that are more challenging and costly.

ADJOURN

Mr. Blackley moved and Ms. Means seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Attest:

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council