

**Vienna Utility Board**  
210 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Vienna, WV 26105  
**Regular Utility Board Session**  
**Meeting location Vienna Utility Board**  
210 60<sup>th</sup> Street Vienna, WV 26105

January 20, 2023

**Public Forum: Brenda Powell – 1409 31<sup>st</sup> Street**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following present:

Randall Rapp, Kim Williams, Attorney Russ Skogstad, Steve Eaton, John Barr, and Joe Thorpe.

Also, present: Craig Metz Public Works Director, Lorrie Bond Stormwater Coordinator / Program Administrator, and Mike Davis, from Burgess & Niple.

Minutes from the December 16, 2022, Regular VUB Board Meeting were approved and posted with the following correction made, date on next meeting needed changed to January 28, 2023.

**Unfinished Business:**

- A. **Water Quality Testing** – Per Craig Metz, last results came back clean with non – detects on the C-8 testing.
- B. **ARP Discussion** - Per Chairman Rapp, apologized for not having a copy of reconciliation of funds to give the exact dollar amount, but we do have ARP funds available, he is aware we have more projects than funds available but again we still have money in the ARP fund. City Council has allocated part of it for the 45<sup>th</sup> Place project, we don't know what the amount is going to be yet, hopefully we will have plenty of money left after this job is completed. Any suggestions or questions on ARP money, there were none. Rapp stated that some may have seen in the paper the opioid litigation that was settled with Walgreen's for \$83 million. That brings the total to around \$965 million, close to a billion dollars of opioid money that is coming. The City of Vienna will receive some of this money, a board will be set up to take care of the 72.5% of that distribution. It is Chairman Rapp's recommendation that Mayor Tom Joyce be on this board, so we have a strong voice with this comes around. We do not know what the amount is going to be, but this is where we are right now. We will also see if there will be any restrictions on where this money can be spent.
- C. **5 – Year Plan** – Per Chairman Rapp, asked the Board if there any additions or discussions, there were none.
- D. **12<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station Pump Replacement – Project Update** – Per Metz, this is moving along, we received the submittal for the pumps types they have in stock and the piping, once they get all the piping we will schedule a time for them to come and install. Chairman Rapp asked if they will be installing, Metz advised that they would be. Rapp asked if once all new piping is installed, will old pumps still work with new pipes, Metz advised no, and advised that we will not be shut down. Rapp wondered what the value is on old pumps since we no longer will have a use for them, Metz said he was not sure of the value, it would depend on the conditions the old ones are in whether to try and sell them. Rapp asked for timeline on this, Metz asked Mike Davis if he knows the time on this, Mike was not sure he knows they are waiting on pipes and valves so we are not sure when to expect this. No further questions.
- E. **45<sup>th</sup> Place Water Main Replacement – Project Update** - Per Metz, we are moving right along we did locate utilities along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to tie the system in. He did ask Mike Davis to

incorporate the piping that we have in stock that we purchased a few years ago for the River Road project to try and keep the costs down. Right-of-ways have been acquired. Rapp asked if we were doing tie in at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue at same time, Metz advised yes, we will be installing a new water line in at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue due to this line being only 2 ½ inch, we cannot find any fittings or tapping saddles for this size.

- F. Burgess & Niple – Water & Wastewater System Improvement Project – Update on Rate Study**– Per Rapp, Dixie Palmier, Michael Griffith’s assistant, has every piece of information that has requested, said she will have the information we are waiting on within the next few weeks. Metz asked if this will be preliminary information because he doesn’t feel they have contacted the Public Works Dept. for future projects we might have and equipment wise, said we should include future projects into this rate study. Rapp, said we can call Dixie or Michael and let them know to add this information in.
- G. Dredging of Pond Run and Dry Dams** – Per Metz, we are having difficult time with the Soil Conservation getting back to us with any information. We are still waiting on information regarding the mower they are supposed to be getting us as well. Lorrie and I both have tried to call and can get no one to call us back. We are doing our part, trying to get grants and get this project funded. Rapp asked Lorrie for the contact information for the contact person at Soil Conservation, she will get to him.
- H. Burgess & Niple – 28<sup>th</sup> Street Storm Drainage Improvements Project Update**– Per Mike Davis, they still need to get us a copy of the easements, and we are getting ready to start on design for Phase 1. Rapp added we have been working on this for a while, so he asked that Mike refresh the boards memory on what Phase 1 includes. Davis stated that it is from Pond Run to the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. Rapp asked when we hope to have this information, Davis stated once he reviews with Metz hope to have by next meeting.

#### **New Business:**

- A. Approval of Specifications for Trench Repair Regarding Road and Sidewalk Crossings**- Per Metz, this is something needs to be approved through the Utility Board along with maybe City Council, this our specifications for road repairs, if a utility company comes in they currently will do is saw cut the road, creating a 2 foot ditch to replace utilities. When they do this on the road, and as sandy as our base is, it doesn’t hold. We will have to go out a year or so later and repair this spot where it has settled, we want to get away from this and provide these specifications for full lane replacement like we had to do on River Road for the state. So if a utility comes in and has to do repairs we are requesting that they also have to replace the entire lane that was dug up. That is what these specifications we are looking to approve are for. Chairman Rapp called for the motion for approval of Specifications for Trench Repair Regarding Road and Sidewalk Crossings.

#### **Motion and Vote**

Chairman Rapp called for the motion to approve Specifications for Trench Repair Regarding Road and Sidewalk Crossings. Motioned carried by Kim Williams, was seconded Joe Thorpe. Vote carried in support unanimous 5-0.

Chairman Rapp asked Attorney Skogstad to research the \$10,000 bond, per address, the reason being if they are paying a \$10,000 bond but are here for 2 years, the \$10,000 won’t even cover the cost of paint to put strips on the road. Rapp stated he and Metz have had multiple conversations with these people on this, it’s the outside contractors they bring in from out of state to do these jobs, they do the work put some dirt on it with a little grass seed and they think they are done, it is not going to happen. We want them to follow these specifications, if not we are going to have to increase the bond to \$50,000, since \$10,000 wont even cover cost of concrete right now. Attorney Skogstad, stated there could be a pragmatic issue with doing by address, Rapp asked how else you would do this? Metz added

that what we do with the state is per occurrence on the bond, his suggestion maybe to increase the amount of the bond to per usage instead of doing per address, Attorney Skogstad stated it could also be done per dollar amount and if the project is going to take longer than 6 months, than it will be this certain dollar amount. Rapp asked that Skogstad and Metz figure out how they want to do this.

**Manager's Report:** Per Metz, Rapp mentioned the meter issue, when we installed this meter project it was a fixed base network meter reading, we knew that it would not cover every meter, just like at your house in the old days, where u put antenna up and your neighbor would get 4 channels but you only 3, same situation here. There are dead spots in the City of Vienna that it will just not read, there is maybe 20 meters that will not read, but I would take 20 over 5,000 or 6,000. Rapp and Metz attended WVWQA meeting last week, we spoke to other members across the state, excellent meeting, spoke to 2 contractors and a distributor on the board. We learned a lot on this, we are having a problem getting materials, the distributor explained that everything is on a ration basis, so if the distributor has a request for 50 in of an item and he only receives 20, he is dividing these up so we may only receive 2 of what we requested, hopefully enough to get by. This is happening to us, the contractor explained that when doing bids, which Metz didn't agree with the Monday – Friday work days in bids, but if they submit a bid and the engineer is saying it's going to be a \$3,000,000 project, why is a contractor submitting work at \$6,000,000, said based on a couple things, one is material costs have gone up so much and the labor. Right now there is a labor shortage, we have to pay our guys more money or they will go somewhere else to work, we are experiencing this here as well. That is why we are trying to order materials before the gas company comes in to do their project, they are going to our water lines, it just happens. We are working with several different distributors on getting these products for projects when they come in. You may see a big expense right off the bat to get these items ordered, but hoping we get all we need and don't have to use them all, they will not go bad, so they will get used. Everything else going good, have had lot of service line replacements lately, no mains lines. That is all Metz had for manager's report. Rapp added that there is an issue that every water utility is dealing with, it is the lead & copper rules, we have talked about it over the last few year, unfortunately the timeline is getting close on the new rules, Rapp asked Steve Eaton how Parkersburg was handling this, Eaton was not sure. Rapp said the issue we are having is it very complicated he is not sure anyone has a complete handle on this. To refresh your memory, we had to make an inventory of every lead service line in the City, when we did meter replacement project, Metz had the staff check every service line in the city, we allegedly have no lead service lines to the best of our knowledge. But then we are tasked with going into peoples homes and making sure they don't have lead lines from our meter to their home and if there is we have to change it out, also with he schools and daycares, Lorrie does a good job trying to keep up with extensive paperwork on this, but we continue to get letters stating that we have a deadline on this to meet, etc. the last thing we need is to be cited because we aren't properly following new lead & copper rules. Rapp doesn't have the answer to this, he isn't sure if Burgess & Niple have an answer either. He asked if they have any cost estimates from any other cities. Mike Davis said the first thing you have to do is figure out where you could have it, that is based on the age of the home, new houses don't require lead or copper. You can start with historical data, to find areas that you may need to visit. Once you have that list, there is grant money that would cover the cost of you having to replace the line. Rapp asked if their organization, does any audit of lead & copper. Mike said he doesn't, but they have people that do. Rapp asked that we be audited. Metz, said this is what we are doing here, last year we sent out a survey to every resident in the City of Vienna, asking them to complete the form on what type of line they have in their home, they could send the form back or do online, out of the 6,000 sent our we got approx. 800 back. We have attached all this information into our GIS system, we did have a few that said they thought they had lead lines, we went to inspect and it didn't appear to be lead lines. Metz asked Tommy Bunner to mention what was said in last GIS meeting regarding where we are compared to other municipalities, we are way ahead according to the GIS people, Bunner stated. There is a process and a timeline that has to be followed, Rapp stated, he asked for a cost estimate on what it would take to have our lead & copper program reviewed and to make sure we have everything done. Davis said he would. Kim Williams asked

if Metz had any updates on the Neptune meters that was discussed last meeting. Metz said he did not have an update yet from Neptune, but he did speak to one of the reps from CI Thornburg regarding census meters, like what Parkersburg uses. They have experienced a lot of same issues, so they are rationing the meters that they have. We spoke to people from other municipalities and a lot of people are having this same problem. But no update on the legal side yet. Rapp said that if we took what they have offered us to replace the meters it would cost approx. \$600,000, just for the meters, doesn't include the data collectors or installation for a system that we took a 20 year warranty with, and we are only coming up on the 9<sup>th</sup> year of, we have 11 year worth of value sitting there, that someone needs to pay us for. Metz added that the meter will stay the same it the electronics part of it that will be replaced, but we are not going to pay for anything since we did have agreement with the warranty of 20 years. Skogstad wanted to know about any alternatives we had, if we went to any other kind of meter would we still have same issue, Metz advised yes. Russ said the issue he sees that we have is, we have lost the value of meters with 11 years left on our warranty. Metz said that is correct, Skogstad also added another issue, that if we went to an alternative, we are still looking at a shortage of meters for next few years, Metz said yes. Metz also added that Lorrie is drafting the letter to put in newsletter and on Facebook page, we are getting ready to start this project and are asking people to keep their meters clear, this is their responsibility so if we have to clear it, it may not be done in the most delicate manner. No more questions or comments.

Meeting adjourned at 1:54 PM.

Next regular meeting – Friday February 17, 2023 @ 1:00 PM @ Vienna Utility Board located at 210 60<sup>th</sup> Street Vienna, WV 26105.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Bond