

Vienna Utility Board
210 60th Street, Vienna, WV 26105
Regular Utility Board Session
Meeting location Vienna Utility Board
210 60th Street Vienna, WV 26105

February 18, 2022

Public Forum: Brenda Powell – 1409 31st Street

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following present:

Randall Rapp, John Barr, Steve Eaton, Kim Williams, Joseph Thorpe, Attorney Russ Skogstad

Chairman Rapp wanted to remind everyone that the live stream of the meeting will not start until the meeting has been called to order so there is to be no recording until the meeting is underway. This is for everyone, all comments that are off record are not to be part of the live streams.

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

Minutes from the January 21, 2022, Regular VUB Board Meeting were approved with one clerical error corrected, date was originally presented with incorrect year listed as 2021, was corrected to 2022, and posted.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Water Quality Testing** – Per Craig Metz, we did not get the results this past month, Chemours came in and did some back flushing of the GAC filters, so the testing is about a week behind, the last results we do have were good. Per Chairman Rapp, the results have been good every time, but I did want to inform everyone that the EPA is going to redo the standards. I have reached out to Senator Manchin’s office asking for any information they may have on this change. We have not received anything back but, my understanding is the limits are going to be significantly lowered which should have no impact on us due to our results always coming back as non – detects. I don’t see how you can get much better than non – detects but we will see where the EPA goes with this. We will keep you updated on any information we get.
- B. ARP Discussion** - Per Chairman Rapp, we know that part of our money from City Council has been allocated to the River Road project and we are also moving forward with the 45th Street project. I am sure this is where the money is going to come from, for the city to pay the Utility Board on the 45th Street project, I believe we have already invested \$33,000, so we will include this in the ARP request to move this project forward. Probably the biggest issues we have is we have way more needs than money to fund it, later in the meeting today, Craig Richards will give us an update, we have engaged Michael Griffith to start the process on any funding sources that are out there, we have asked him to go big, we want to submit everything we have, I know some members of council are of the opinion that we should take it all on and do it. When I approached Mr. Griffith about that he said this is the time, there is so much money out there available, if we can get these projects the board this is the time to get it funded. We are waiting on reports back from him as far as the impact on us and what costs would be. A lot of the money is grant money, if you can get in the system you don’t have to pay it back. The standard way it used to be is a 2% loan over a number of years and at that point you must do rate increases and that is the information we are trying to get more information on. Michael Griffith is probably the best accounting firm to do these studies, hopefully we will have more details and information on this soon.

C. 5 – Year Plan – Per Chairman Rapp, does anyone have any items they would like added to the 5 – year plan at this time? The City of Parkersburg does what is called a 5 – year improvement plan where they pick out various projects to work on and equipment purchases, they think they are going to need in the next 5 years. I think we have a good draft here of the projects we need done, if we got a chance Craig, we should have you scope out for us what you think in the next 5 years what you are going to need, i.e., another Vac Truck or backhoe etc., since they are such expensive items, and we will know we are looking at these. Going over budget fire Chief Scholl has already put on the horizon that within the next 2 years we are going to need a new fire truck. Right now, if we purchased one it would be about \$880,000 so we know in 2 years we will have to replace a fire truck and that way we can plan for that. So, Rapp advised Metz if we could develop something like that it would be helpful. Metz advised that this is already in place, we put it in our budget every year, I presented the budget to council a few weeks ago and within that budget line-item vehicle list it included water and sewer and street departments vehicles and equipment that would need to be replaced within the next 10 years. Rapp asked that on the 5 – year plan draft we have; he would like Metz to add whatever items he thinks we will need. Metz wanted to discuss another item that has come up today. We got a call this morning that our 12th Street lift station was down, we went down to look and had to do an emergency by-pass due to failure on pump # 3 and pumps #1 & #2 were not acting correctly. Metz instructed guys to pull the pumps, photos were taken on pump #3 the impeller we just got 10 months ago is down to disposable flushable wipes. The wipes jammed the motor up, plugged it up and broke the shaft on the motor. This is frequent on pump #3, we aren't sure why this pump gets so much debris, but this a complete failure of the pump. I called one of our contractors he is coming to pick it up and try to rebuild the shaft, which he has done before on pump #1, but we are looking at pump #3 being down for approx. 2 months. Photos of pump #2, also covered in disposable, plugged up and nonfunctioning. It has also covered the impellor, we cleaned it up put it back in service it is working now, but it is going to be a serious failure anytime. So, we have pump #3 down, and pump #2 on crutches. We also have an issue with the impellor getting thin on pump #1, you can also see disposable wipes on this pump as well. Due to the flow rate and amount of rain we received, it flushed everything right to all our pumps, we did by – pass, the WVDEP came down did an inspection, he did witness the wipes, no violation. Our issue is we have 3 pumps we are going to have to replace. These pumps are approx. 10 years old, but we will need 3 new and at least 2 spares within the next year. I will be getting with Mike Davis today and we will be looking into some options on new pumps for this left station. Chairman Rapp asked Tommy Bunner to put a notice on our water bills reminding people to not flush these wipes and leave on for at least a few months. Tommy advised he would. We will also make sure it is still in newsletter for the next year, and it is on the website as well.

D. 4705 8th Avenue Property – Chairman Rapp asked for an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter.

Motion and Vote

Chairman Rapp called for motion of Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. Motioned carried by Kim Williams was seconded by John Barr. Vote carried in support unanimous 5-0.

Executive Session was entered in at 1:20 PM, ended at 1:46 PM. No decision was made was information only. We will schedule a special meeting where we will notice an offer to purchase the property at 4705 8th Avenue, Vienna, WV, for the purpose of installing a retention system. At that time, we will review and see what the board wants to do. Per Russ we must have 2 readings on this. I will have Lorrie get with each of you and see what will fit your schedule for these special meetings and get them scheduled. Russ added that the meetings must be 7 days apart.

E. Burgess & Niple – River Road Water Main Update – Per Lise Sibicky we received the CSX permit on Thursday, we are waiting on clarification on some gas line information on River Road. We are looking at around April 12th for the bid opening so hope to have something by

the board meeting to follow to give you more information. Per Craig, Good Friday falls on that Friday April 12th, so if everyone is ok with it, we would like to move the meeting to Thursday April 11th.

- F. Burgess & Niple – 45th Place Water Main Replacement Update** – Per Lise Sibicky, we are working with Craig to confirm some property information, there are some challenges and easements in that area, that we are trying to make sure we can tie over to 3rd Avenue. Craig is going to get some more information to us. Metz advised that he was not sure if we have right of ways where these lines need to go, even though we have an existing 2-inch line there, Metz is going to need Russ' help on this, if we don't have right of ways where needed, we are going to have to move it down go a different direction and back to 46th Street to a known existing right of way. Metz advised he would get with Russ after meeting to discuss. We are hoping to have this bid out by May.
- G. Burgess & Niple – Water & Wastewater System Improvement Projects** – Per Craig Richards, Burgess & Niple made a presentation to City Council on January 13, 2022, to give Council on update on what was going on with the water, sewer and Pond Run projects as well as the Stormwater master plan, we presented information on what the scope of the work would be on the Water and Wastewater side of your business would be. In speaking to Craig and Randy a few days ago, it seems there is some kind of consideration being given to doing all of the improvements to the water and wastewater projects. Randy advised we are going to engage Michael Griffith on what kind of impact this may have on our rates and help find where funding may come from. There are going to be possible grants available to communities like the City of Vienna that we have not seen before because our rates are so low. We really won't know more until we get more information on the City Infrastructure Bill and there is HB4566 going through the WV Legislature today as we speak that may give us opportunities to tap into some of the state funds. The HB4566 creates the fund but there is nothing in the legislation that says how much, that has yet to be seen or determined. We don't know yet what this will mean for the City of Vienna's rates. But if we go through this process and update our cost estimates on projects we need done, give the information to Michael Griffith and hopefully we will have more information on rates and any state and federal funding options. Lastly, the Board and City Council is going to have to decide on what rates are going to be so we can make these projects happen. Per Rapp, there are so many items we need to focus and work on at some point we must make a decision. In speaking with Michael Griffith, he said in the past due to Vienna's rates being so low we would never qualify for anything, but they are throwing that out for this money. We still have one of the lowest water rates in the state and in the past that has worked against us, but according to Mr. Griffith with this next cycle this is not going to be an issue. We have also applied for an ear mark through Senator McKinley's office. We applied for the sewer upgrade to Parkersburg, which I believe was approx. \$2.9 million. We applied for the Pond Run Dredging, approximately \$1.5 million. We have not heard back on anything yet. We are trying to find any source of funding we can. Rapp stated he very much appreciated all the work that Craig Richards, Lise Sibicky and Mike Davis from Burgess & Niple have done because when we submitted our information to Senator McKinley's office, we had it already to go, we had estimates and the whole 9 yards. So hopefully we will hear something soon. Richards also provided a material cost estimate comparison to show how much the price of supplies have increased and what approx. lead times are. We can put a project to bid a contractor will be honored project, but by the time the project is ready to go the cost can go significantly higher due to cost increases and the availability of supplies can be months out. This is what everyone statewide is dealing with currently.

New Business:

- A. Burgess & Niple – Approval of Task Order 2022 – 05 – 28th Street Storm Drainage Study** – The task order was presented originally as 2021 – 05 as part of the general task order

redone in 2021, Rapp asked that with these new task orders coming in he would like the year to be listed as the year we are doing the work, so this task order was changed from 2021 – 05 to 2022 – 05, any new task orders will have the year listed consistent with year we are doing work in. Per Mike Davis, map was provided, the green lines represent the pipes that currently serve that area, the blue are ditch lines and the shaded area is the entire study area where any drop of water ends up in. Rapp stated that what are here today for is the Task Order 2022 – 05, which was originally 2021 – 05, this order is to engage Burgess & Niple to view work on the 28th Street damaged storm drainage study. Kim Williams had question, she said looking at the layout the project starts at 28th Street and 19th Avenues and wanted to make sure we are looking at everything in the shaded area as part of the study. Mike Davis advised yes. Williams added that there are huge concerns on 29th Street between 18th and 19th Avenues, these areas would be included in this study, correct? Mike Davis again advised yes. Chairman Rapp called for motion for authorization and approval of Task Order 2022 – 05, 28th Street Storm Drainage Study.

Motion and Vote

Chairman Rapp called for motion of approval of Task Order 2022 – 05 – 28th Street Storm Drainage Study. Motioned carried by Kim Williams was seconded by Steve Eaton. Vote carried in support unanimous 5-0

B. Funding Source Options – Per Rapp since we discussed this earlier, we are not going to go over again.

Manager’s Report: Per Metz, we already discussed this issue with the 12th Street lift station, so just keep that in mind, there will be some expense with this within the next year, Mike Davis and I will sit down and look at the pump options and get something bid out. Metz also asked for the next 2 meetings to be scheduled on Thursday March 17, 2022, and April 14th, 2022. Everyone was fine with the change in schedule, but Russ did advise he will not be able to make it on those days.

Board Comments: Kim Williams wanted to stress her concern that we are going to be discussing the 8th Avenue property our city attorney will not be here for this. Russ and Rapp advised it would all be done before the next meeting. Craig and Randy advised that we will be having 2 special meetings for the property issue at 8th Avenue. No further comments.

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM.

Next regular meeting – Thursday March 17, 2022 @ 1:00 PM @ Vienna Utility Board located at 210 60th Street Vienna, WV 26105.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Bond