

Vienna Utility Board
210 60th Street, Vienna, WV 26105
Regular Utility Board Session
Meeting location City of Vienna Council Chambers
609 29th Street, Vienna, WV 26105

September 17, 2021

Public Forum: Brenda Powell – 1409 31st Street
Jerry Thorn – 406 45th Place

The meeting was called to order at 1:14 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following present:

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

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

Minutes from the August 20, 2021, Regular VUB Board Meeting were approved as presented and posted.

Unfinished Business:

- A. **Water Quality Testing** – Per Craig Metz, the latest results came back as ND, so filters and system working great.

- B. **Stormwater Issue** – Flooding and Structural Damage Repeatedly @ 4705 8th Avenue Property – Per Chairman Rapp, this Stormwater problem is an issue we have had for many years. Chairman Rapp guessed that we looked at this issue approx. 3 years ago, to see if there were options to remedy this situation. At that time, we were given several options of what to do and what the cost estimates would be. The issue with this particular property is that the drainage system currently there is lower than the drainage system itself. So, when a flooding issue does occur to get the water out it would have to be pumped with a lift station or some type of retention system to hold it and both options were extremely expensive. So, at that time we went to look at buying the house due to it being the cheapest of all options but, no decision was made to remedy this situation. Chairman Rapp said to Craig Richards that we have been through this one from an engineering standpoint he has seen that everything in that neighborhood drains to this one lot. The surrounding residents have raised the elevations on their property, where it is causing a containment zone for the standing water in his back yard. Chairman Rapp asked Craig Richards if there are any other options that have come up in the last 3 years that could be explored? Richards advised nothing beyond what we had previously talked about. He advised that it is obvious upon looking at topographic mapping when avenue was being built, they built a dam with the street or at a preexisting hollow or drainage channel and they did not install a culvert through it, going along with inadequate storm drainage. This is most of the problem that they are dealing with there. Rapp asked for this to be placed on the agenda due to Metz and I speaking with the homeowners many times. We have spent a tremendous amount of money getting these studies done to figure out the best option. Rapp asked Metz what his thoughts are on the fix of this situation. Metz added, he is sure everyone has reviewed the reports we have done in the past, we could spend \$500,000 fixing this or purchase this home, or we could make a retention system or rain garden option. This is one of the cheapest options we can have. But by removing the house there would still be additional work we would have to do, which we could probably do in house to eliminate the flooding issue in this area. Rapp added this homeowner has done

everything possible to keep this from happening he has put in drains, etc. it just so happens when we get a good rain it travels right to his yard and front property. This seems to be a situation where we don't see a workable solution. We are not looking for answers today just want you to be aware that this is a problem. Per Metz and Rapp agreed that this property has been flooded at least 20 times. This is a stormwater issue that the City must address. Kim Williams added that the same type of situation happens on 9th Avenue, the last big rain we had they had 16" of water on road and a vehicle had to be towed. So, are we looking at putting all that in together? Whatever solution you come up with on 8th Avenue, is 9th Avenue also being considered in this? Per Craig Richards, he said no, this was the first he had heard about, he asked if this was 9th Avenue and about the 4500 block? Williams added no it is 9th Avenue between 47th & 48th Streets. Mike Davis added that this will be reviewed during Stormwater update, there are 2 different issues going on here. Once is the house on 8th Ave., the other is in the Stormwater Plan as one of the areas of concern. So, it is being looked at. Williams asked if the same fix of a lift station, retention area, etc., would help eliminate the issue on 47th Street, Randy added that the problem is in between the block, there are 2 storm drains opposite of each other and when we get heavy rains the storm drains cannot hold this capacity. The water does recede from this area in approx. 30 mins. And there is no damage there. Metz added that what happens is the storm drain in front of the property we are discussing maxes out at capacity once this happens the storm drains starts to back up into the residence and therefor causing backups up the street and all the way to 9th Avenue. Were hoping that maybe once we eliminate this home or put some sort of retention system in there it will relieve the pressure from the main line, going to Pond Run therefore allowing the flow from 9th Ave. to come down. Rapp added he wished he had a better reason or answer, but this is where we are on this unique situation. So please think about this issue and we will discuss further.

- C. ARP Fund Request** – Per Rapp, City Council asked that the Vienna Utility Board meet jointly to have a discussion about projects my thinking is this will be more of an education process. I think over the last few years this Board has been very diligent about promoting a 5 – year plan and have done very well at addressing those issues. I don't believe Council understands all of the issues going on and they would like to have some more information. Council would like to schedule a joint meeting with the Utility Board to go over the Water, Sewer and Stormwater issues within the City. Rapp asked that the Board members send him an email to let him know what days / dates you all would be available, and we will set up a joint meeting. So please let me know when would be a good time for us to have this joint meeting. Attorney Skogstad also added that there does not have to be a quorum to set up a time and discuss the issues without making any decisions. Per Rapp, once I get the emails from everyone on when they can meet, we will have the meeting right here in Council Chambers and go from there. Rapp added that is attempting to get on the agenda for the County Commission to review one of our projects and to see if any funding available.
- D. 5 – Year Plan** – Per Rapp, we have had the 5 – year plan out for a very long time, in past meetings I used to suggest that if you had any suggestions or ideas to add to the plan, it is a roving document so things can be added and changed at any time, this is just simply a pathway to go forward. Mike Davis has been excellent at updating our 5 – year plan, we have a very robust plan, which is probably one of the things we need to highlight when we get with City Council. There is no one here that knows the city needs better than Metz does so the things that he puts forth are the things we should pay attention to. Our idea is to get a plan presented to them, so they have a better understanding about. The problem is we only received \$2.4 million when you start looking at water sewer and stormwater issues that money does not go very far. We will do the best we can with what we have and go from there. When you work on a 5 – year plan we try to address as many issues and problems that we can. Kim Williams asked if there were preliminary & final design information on the 28th St. drainage project that she could look at. Metz advised that we do not have a cost estimate on this yet, the designs and information still must go through a public forum and public comment period. We do have all the data, but it still must go through this process. We are behind on projects due to Covid the availability of products and staff being out. Per Mike Davis, for this

master plan the next step is who is going to review the items. We present the items on the plan and then we need the Board to decide what projects we want to focus on. Rapp added that each one of these reviews we ask Burgess & Niple to work on costs us money, so there is a good possibility that we are going to get it done. They have done extensive work on the 8th Ave. project, and we still have not done anything with it, as is the same issue with the 28th St. drainage project. Until we get some direction on where we are going to get the funding, we are not going to turn them lose on the project because it is going to be very expensive. Stormwater is a general fund item not an enterprise fund so City Council will have to approve. Metz added that on this master plan when you see items for phase 1 water systems improvements, etc. is just a general item it is not specific to a certain street or area, that is what the Board decides on. I can make recommendations on where I think the priorities are, but again in the end it is up to the Board to make that decision. Craig Richards wanted to add that the items on the 5 – year plans are basically a wish list, these are items that have come to Craig Metz and the Mayor we started doing this back in 2012 and we are constantly updating it. I did a presentation to City Council back in November 2020, so this is the most recent 5 – year plan we have to date. It is not uncommon to have items on here that do not get done whether it be funding issues or something else is more critical to work on.

New Business:

- A. Presentation on ArcGIS System and Water Breaks** – Director Metz presented this information to City Council last week and wanted to provide to Board as well. Council and the Board receive a monthly report on water breaks and work done around the city. In the past we have always kept track of this in a red book. A year ago, we were fortunate enough to get this GIS system and can now keep track of the work done during the day. Our staff takes tablets to the field and digitally enters pictures of before, during and after along with the work order, which lets us know what crew did the work, what products and equipment was used, and the work done itself. Which is then recorded on this mapping system. What I am showing is work done in the city over the last year, we will start with 45th Place. 5 water breaks in the past year we have a total cost of \$2,700 which includes labor rate and materials. Moving on these are other water breaks we have had in just the last year. Each blue dot you see are where we have had to work on water mains, tap replacements and water breaks. There is a total of 147 breaks. If you look at 16th Street, we have had a lot of breaks in this area, there are approx. 100 houses in this area where water must be shut off to these residence to do the repairs. When I look at this 16th St. is my priority, compared to 7 houses at 45th Place that are inconvenienced when there is a water break. Kim Williams wanted to note that the situation at 45th Place is very different, the city knew before they took this development in there was a problem and now we are having to deal with it 20+ years later and has still not been fixed. Metz agreed and stated that he knows 45th place needs fixed but there is a substantial amount of work around the city we have to fix and a lot of choices we are going to have to make coming up on what our priority areas are. Williams asked if Task Order #18 will give us an idea on this, Metz advised it will partially, but it will give us an idea of the priority areas in water, sewer, and stormwater.
- B. Burgess & Niple – Rate Increase Presentation** – Mike Davis wanted to touch briefly on where we are with projects before going over rate increase information. First, we will start with wastewater, we are looking at sewer rehab / replacement with the city's CCTV system can and how it could be fixed, next is 11th Ave. sewer replacement from 17th St. over to 12th. St. and the forced main project to Parkersburg. We need to look at the costs and what will be the impact on the rates. Mike stated this is more of a debt service on rates, normally rate increases are something an accountant would figure out, so we are again looking at debt service and how much you could borrow. The City would be eligible through the state programs for 3% at 20 years, so its basically \$1.00 added to the bill for water for every \$1 million dollars, whether its water or sewer. So, give or take its about \$8 million just for these projects we are currently looking at. If you did all the projects today, you are looking at \$8 increase on the sewer side. Next is water projects, River Road Water Main connection from 32nd St. to 23rd St., the main line extension to Parkersburg, and rehab of wells 9 & 10. So, we

are looking at approx. \$3 million in the water dept. Next on to the dredging of Pond Run from little Pond Run up to 28th Street and also the dry ponds at Greenmont and Glenbrook it is a cost of almost \$1 million for this. In reference to the rate increase sheet the average bill is based on 3,400 gallons a month, water average is approx. \$20.13, and sewer is approx. \$30.94. This is based on median household income of \$46,968. They want your rate up to about 1.50% to get the best interest rate. So, if you were to do all projects planned and borrowed the funds it would be about an \$11 increase.

- C. Burgess & Niple – River Road Water Main – Task Order No. 2021 – 02 Approval –** Per Craig Richards this task order is for design work of installation of a new water main on River Road between 23rd and 32nd Streets along with the extension of a new water main to Spencer's Landing and Mini Bell Golf course at 28th Street. This involves the construction of approx. 2,480 lineal feet of a 12 – inch water main along River Road and 110 lineal feet of a 6- inch water main with railroad crossing to provide service to Spencer's Landing and Mini Bell Golf course. Professional services for this task order will cost \$37,000.

Motion and Vote

Chairman Rapp called for the motion for authorization and approval of Task Order No. 2021 – 02, for design work from Burgess & Niple on River Road Water Main in the amount of \$37,000.

Motion carried by Steve Eaton was seconded by John Barr. Vote carried in support unanimously 4-0.

Manager's Report: We pretty much covered everything earlier, but if any of you would like a demonstration on how this GIS system works, feel free to call me or stop by the office, I will be happy to show you how this system works. Again, this past month has been hard for us we have been hit hard with sickness, we are trying to work through that and in turn our billing department is out as well, so bills are going to go out a few weeks behind. Also, I will not be available for the next meeting scheduled for Friday October 15, 2021, so I am asking to move the next meeting to Friday October 8, 2021, so if you all could let us know if that date works I would appreciate it. Rapp wanted to add that a resident called to compliment and thank Dennis Thorn, for his outstanding attitude and work ethic during a water leak on 54th Street. Dennis went above and beyond helping this resident with his leak and wanted to let us know what an excellent employee we have in Dennis.

Board Comments: No comments

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM.

Next regular meeting – Friday October 15, 2021 @ 1:00 PM @ 60th Street VUB location.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Bond