

MINUTES OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
February 13, 2012

The February 13, 2012 Utilities Committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Spencer at 6:54 P.M. Present were Fred Berry, Jack Ferguson, Amy Michael, Scott Rainone, Bruce Ribelin and Fran Ricciardi. Also attending the meeting Mayor Bica; Service Director, Kelly Engelhart; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Tim Stephens, Water Plant Supervisor; Elaine Van Hoose, Parks and Recreation Director; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Donna Swigart of 528 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio and Marc Resnik of 1102 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna.

Ms. Spencer said the first item on the agenda is the water quality study by the University of Akron.

Ms. Engelhart said this is to have the mayor enter into a contract with the University of Akron to do water sampling for water quality. This has to do with when the water is treated because they get the water from the lake, there are disinfectant byproducts that are produced by the treatment process. The EPA monitors those byproducts. They are changing the requirements for monitoring those byproducts. Right now they monitor four different locations in the city. Currently they are permitted to average those sample tests for those byproducts. In 2013, they are not going to be allowed to average those and will have to take the samples by the sites themselves and they have to be in compliance at the site. They know a couple of places in the city, there are higher levels than there should be so the average comes out, not okay. This professor at the University of Akron has worked with Ravenna for the past year and a half to two years doing some specific testing on what exactly is happening in the water quality so they know exactly how to treat it. He's willing to do that sampling again for \$9,600.00 going into the next year. That will really help improve the water quality and they'll know exactly how they need to treat it.

Mr. Stephens said right there are four sites. In 2013 it will be site specific. They can still average them but it will be site specific so they won't have the luxury of looking at a site that is really good with lower readings, it will bring the higher one down. There are two sites on Rte. 88 they have problems with. They will be getting weekly samples from the University of Akron. The EPA reports are due quarterly. If they don't do something, in 2013 they will wind up in violation and they don't want that.

Mr. Berry asked if there are four sites right now and one is higher and the other is lower; what would be the difference between one site being high and the other one being low.

Mr. Stephens said that it's water age. They have the most problems at the end of the system. In the wintertime the water is colder and there isn't as much activity in the organics in the water. Sometimes when the water is warmer, it gets a little more volatile. There is a little bit more reaction. The older the water gets and the warmer it gets is when you have problems. This study will help them decide what they are going to do for 2013. There is money on the books that they can possibly put carbon caps on the filters but they are very expensive and they don't last very long. Hopefully, they will learn something from this study and tell them what they have to do to meet those regulations.

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Mr. Berry noted that Mr. Merleno had mentioned some type of agitation system.

Mr. Stephens responded stating that is a separate project and is being done on the GE tank.

Ms. Engelhart said there was money appropriated but it's not the same as this contract to do continuous sampling.

Mayor Bica said Dr. Miller has done several studies for the city as far back as five or six years ago.

Mr. Ricciardi asked how long of a period this contract is for.

Mr. Stephens responded that it is for 12 months.

Mr. Ricciardi asked if it is renewable on an annual basis.

Mr. Stephens said they would have to look at it toward the end of the contract period, whether or not they have enough information on their own. This 12 months study will be an eye opener. This will tell them whether or not they really need to put the carbon caps on the filters or if they can do it with what they've got.

Mayor Bica said the carbon caps are \$250,000.00.

Mr. Stephens said they are very expensive and they need to be changed every two years. There are six filters. He knows they will spend more on chemicals but not a quarter million dollars every two years.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Ms. Spencer said the next item for discussion is the restoration of the city park water tank.

Mr. Stephens said you can see just by looking at the water tank that it needs to be painted. There was an inspection done last year. The inside is in pretty good shape. It does have some places that needs to be touched up. The outside has to be completely sandblasted and painted with fresh paint. Another question is right now it's blue and white. They will save a lot of money by going with one color. They have to decide if they can just live with blue. It will still say "Ravenna" on the tank. There are a few spots on the inside that will need to be resealed.

Ms. Engelhart said that the project is already budgeted. The project will need to go out to bid.

Ms. Stephens said there are three parts. They need a contract to have a company prepare the bid specs and to interview the painters. The second part would be to provide inspection of the total job. This consultant would be there the entire time the painters were working; six days a week for a month. Generally the painters would want to be in a month. The consultant would be there the whole time whether they took more than a month or not. The last one is to advertise for bids.

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Ms. Spencer said the next item for discussion is the Cleveland Road water line.

Mr. Finney said the Cleveland Road water line and the citywide storm improvement project is simply to authorize the mayor to advertise for bids for construction. The citywide storm improvement would be stormwater funds exclusively. The water line project is the PWC project. The water line project will be bid out this summer. His goal is to bid out the stormwater project in the next two months.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Ms. Spencer said the last item on the agenda is the storm drain improvements at the city garage.

Mr. Finney said he believes this is authorizing the mayor to advertise for bids for the storm improvements. Part of this is the issue with the grease trap, catching the runoff from the vehicles inside the building. They need to be piped to the sanitary sewer. There is a considerable amount of work. It is a drainage system they have been working on. They are looking at approximately \$35,000.00 to construct the new drainage, to collect it, send it through a grease trap and into the sanitary sewer. Basically, it needs to be rerouted a whole different direction.

Mayor Bica said they would comply now with EPA regulations which they do not now. This would alleviate any possible contamination from that building into the new. It is budgeted for this year in the capital improvement fund. They were going to do it last year but there wasn't time to do the project while ODOT while was moving in. They have to dig a trench down the middle of the garage to put in these catch basins.

Ms. Spencer asked if any of the monies are coming from ODOT or if it is strictly a city expense.

Mayor Bica said it's all coming from the storm fund.

Mr. Ricciardi asked how much is budgeted.

Mayor Bica said he thinks it was \$30-35,000.00.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Sharon Spencer, Chairperson
Utilities Committee