

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 8, 2017, 3:00p.m. MT
**** PUBLIC WORKS HEADQUARTERS ****

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Bernie Babcock, Public Works Committee Chairman.

Committee members present included Mr. Bernie Babcock, Mr. Riley Hill, Mr. Scott Wilson, and Pat Woodcock (one vacant position).

Others present included Cliff Leeper, Betsy Roberts, Suzanne Mulvany, Gary Young, CH2M and Marty Justus, Councilor.

The press was notified. This meeting was recorded (the tape is available at the Public Works Headquarters); the minutes are on file at City Hall and on the city's website at www.ontariooregon.org.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – JUNE 13, 2017

RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION:

The motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Hill to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting, June 13, 2017: Motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES

BETSY/CLIFF

- ~ Water Treatment Plant Completion:
 - o Near Completion and working well. Currently finishing up a few minor cleanup items.
 - o The new SCADA system tracks real-time data. It is much more efficient and easier to operate.
- ~ Chip Seal Completion:
 - o Chip seal is complete and fog seal is scheduled to be done later this month after the Solar Eclipse.
- ~ Back Parking Lot Paving:
 - o Complete and looks great.
 - o MJ – Blue international parking signs? Are we planning on installing those anywhere down there?
 - o CL – Not planning on it.
 - o MJ – Not for the eclipse, but for enough signage to get people to come back there? Looking at SE 1st and trying to get permission to put an old-time finger on the building that says “Parking”.
 - o CL – Good news regarding signage. We’ve had issues with sign vendors getting them to be responsive and in a reasonable time frame. Recently approached the prison and they have a sign shop with significantly less cost, and much faster turn-around time.
 - o MJ – Are there designated spaces for dumpsters?
 - o BR – We’ve asked Adam for direction on this.
 - o SW – There are no codes for enclosures but have standards because everyone has different space restrictions.
- ~ Sanitary Waterline Project:
 - o Combined project of both sanitary and water lines.
 - o Bid opening - 8/24/17
 - o Start - This fall
 - o Cost - Approximately \$400,000 (\$200 k each)
 - o Location - Down by the Cultural Center.
- ~ Well #17:
 - o Almost complete - Building has been completed (all done in-house).
 - o Finishing up electrical & coordinating SCADA.
 - o SCADA reports to the Water Treatment Plant; also, reports to remote systems for staff on call and the Superintendent, giving them the ability to make changes remotely.
- ~ East Idaho Trees.
 - o Grates have been purchased, waiting on their delivery and the weather.
 - o Met with Meadow Outdoor Advertising.
 - o Trees are non-producing pear trees; will not get real big.

~ SRCI Meeting & moving forward:

- Meeting set up for 9/21/17.
- Had a conference call with them in July. Went through where we were, process forward, explained where we were with the review of the lower lift station, and how that would impact things (they were very interest in hearing about that).
- Both parties, the DOJ and the City, agreed that because of the timing we needed to extend the contract one year. Get the information, get the NPDES (which we should be finalizing this fall), and then can wrap that into what the contract looks like.
- Now the DOJ is putting together an amendment to extend the contract. Larry Sullivan is on call; we hope to potentially have it in front of the council the 15th of August, because it needs to be reviewed quickly and turned around to make the Sept. 30 deadline. It is just an extension of one year.
- 9/21/17 meeting is set to just to make sure everything is coming together.
- RH – Is this extension going to include shifting the liability to the State if something goes South?
- BR – We really can't at this point. Mr. Sullivan's first take on this was pretty clear as to they've given it to us & it's ours. It's part of why we are doing this study to understand what those challenges are and be prepared to handle it as quickly as we can.
- RH – Just know that they do not give extensions, they give deadlines. But if it's the other way around they extend. Don't think it is right.
- BR – With respect to DEQ believe we have some responsibilities. We are accepting their waste right now through an agreement. We would make a lot of enemies other than just the DOJ if we were to say "Sorry, we're done". Believe this is where Adam is coming from too. We are working with the DEQ on our NPDES, we have a lot of things going on, and we may need the flow from SRCI. That may help us in the future with our NPDES based on the quality of their water where we might use land application if that comes up being a solution. So, one more year doing the same seemed okay.
- MJ – During the conference call in January the DOJ said "Maybe we just need to pursue our own system?" That's enough for the City to say we don't have to extend. Understanding why we would, however think we need to protect ourselves. Everyone knew this contract was coming up, they knew it was coming up, and then to kick it down the road another year...? Find it very unacceptable, and going to be very vocal about it at the council level. Where's the shared liability? Would like recommendation from this committee.
- BB – Like to see the contract first. Believe that it indicates the City of Ontario took possession of the system after receiving payment. And some criteria about substantial changes to the contract to require more than just one year or ?? It was not just a done deal to stop service.
- MJ – The contract is expiring, that leaves it open for negotiation. Just saying that during this year of discovery, that if we run into an issue, i.e. contaminating the river, etc., now is the time to negotiate that in there.
- RH – Motion, in the negotiations with the extension of the contract the PWC recommend to the City Council that liability be put on the state..
- BB – or shared?
- CL – It's equitable that they take some responsibility because it's their waste, they provided the system, then handed it over to us. Believe what will happen is when we approach this with them they will want to make sure we're doing a good job of maintaining the system and taking care of it. And when the Study is done it will list those things. The second part of this is the NPDES Permit.
- BR – With respect to the DOJ and where they stand, one individual in the group from SRCI said we should look at what we can do. When they have come back since, the folks from Salem, who really are running the show, said "That's not going to happen. We are here to work with you". Local guy was just a bit frustrated.

RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION:

The motion was made by Mr. Hill seconded by Mr. Woodcock that the Public Works Committee recommend to the City Council that in the extension of the contract that the State acknowledges that they share 50% of the liability if there is a failure or spill: Mr. Scott Wilson – Yes; Mr. Bernie Babcock – Yes; Mr. Riley Hill – Yes; Mr. Pat Woodcock – Yes; Motion Passed 4-0-1 (one vacant).

~ NPDES:

- August 29th, we will be meeting with the State.
- They have shared 2 compliance schedules (after much discussion going back and forth).
- The Permit comes in 5 year cycles (10 or 15 years). One laid out with 2 cycles and one with 3 cycles. We've been saying that with the money that needs to be spent and the activities that need to be done, we really need the 3 cycles (15 yrs.)

- With the information they provided us, we sat down internally and discussed it; Adam and Paul Woods we're trying to create a response that best supports the City side.
- They really want us to be under a new permit by January.
- They are getting pressure from the EPA to get it done.
- Can always appeal it, but gets a bit sticky with all the legalities and would really prefer not to go that route.
- The other route is to accept it and say Yes.
- And there are still within that compliance schedule we end up with a 15-year. There are activities we would do right up front, which is one thing they keep pushing, but we've found that we got it nailed down to activities that make sense anyway.
- Again, we have more off ramps there as well, if the cost is so significant that it just isn't going to work, we can get a variance through the EPA that says our community cannot afford this.
- However, for the City of Ontario to get a variance on this permit would be extraordinary. Would double the bill.
- HB 2012??? Border economic zone.. Might give a little operating room. Says that we can get waivers on tax and other issues.....
- Want us to clean our water 10x more than the way it comes in as far as arsenic. The minimum drinking water standard for arsenic is 10 mg parts per billion. They want our limit to be 2.1 mg per limit. The Snake right now is approximately 4-6 depending on when and where you take the sample.
- Explain Cost and the 2% again.
- I.e. if the cost of a new treatment plant and our 2% was \$60 mo. per household, if that causes rates to go above \$60 a month then they could say okay we'll give you a variance.
- Bottom line – get cleaned up then
- RH – how much \$ have we spent on this? ~\$40,000 since CH2 has been here.
- Negotiating with DEQ but EPA is the one dictating to DEQ. Oregon runs their own DEQ. Oregon has their own State controlled system because their standards are more stringent than the Federal standards.
- Oregon did decide to go with the 2.1 where Idaho did not.
- *(Multiple conversations)*

2017 ECLIPSE

BETSY/CLIFF

~ Meeting with City group & will be providing extra services:

- Extra Porta-Potties
 - Parks, Golf Course, etc.
- Park bathrooms to be open also
 - Security Cameras already installed in the area
- 3 septic dump sites
 - PW, Golf Course, and Fairgrounds

~ Emergency meeting:

- Hung banner with eyebolts on the railroad overpass with UPRR permission.
- Ontario Sanitary:
 - Monday starting @ 2 am and finish by 6 am before any traffic.
 - Running extra requested commercial routes, and extra containers at multiple businesses that have requested them.
 - And 5 extra containers each at both Lions & Beck parks.
- Every hotel in town has been booked for months/year
- PW – to provide extra labor over the weekend at the parks, etc.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Woodcock to Adjourn: Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Signature

9/12/17

Date

(Bernie Babcock, Chairman / Riley Hill, Vice-Chairman)