



City of Palos Heights
Water and Sewer Committee
Tuesday, January 24th, 2023 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bylut called the Water and Sewer Committee meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. In attendance were Chairman Bylut, Alderman Key, Director of Public Works Adam Jasinski, Alderman McGrogan and Recording Secretary Morgan Pukula. Alderman Begley entered at 6:55 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Bylut made a motion to approve the minutes of the Water and Sewer Committee meeting held on November 22, 2022 seconded by Alderman Key. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Jasinski presented the following reports/considerations:

- **Water main breaks:** There have been 2 water main breaks so far this year. They were minor leaks which we were able to catch for our leak detection program. We ended 2022 with 47 water main breaks which was under our average of 50.
- **127th and RT 83 Construction Update:** The city is officially on the new water main in this intersection. They pressure tested the water main in the first week of December and we received the official operating permit from IEPA on December 6th so we are currently operating on a new water main. Everything seems to be running smoothly with the system and we have not had any issues so far.
- **Westgate Cul-De-Sac:** When we began this project, they were putting a new binding layer on the roadway itself and they compacted that binding layer, we suffered a bad water main break due to the weight of the compactor. The pavement was so thin, a large surface area popped up and washed out. They had to bring the cul-de-sac to stone and bring more pavement in for additional patching. The original cost of the water main break was covered but the additional improvements are a separate \$15,045.00.

- Request payment approval to Lindahl Bros. Inc for pavement restoration associated with a water main break on the Westgate cul-de-sac in the amount of \$15,045.00 –

AGENDA

Alderman McGrogan motioned to approve the payment to Lindahl Bros. Inc in the amount of \$15,045.00, seconded by Chairman Bylut. All in favor, **motion carries**.

- **2022 Sewer Rehabilitation Program:** The project went out to bid in early summer and are contracted with National Power Rodding Corp. where they started work to rehabilitate two major point repairs in the amount of \$46,711.17. These point repairs to fix offset sewers that were in the area. The project total was \$473,000, so this payment is roughly 10% of the project that is complete. They are planning on doing the lining starting the first week of February because the material should arrive this week and are set to complete the project this winter.

- Request first payment approval to National Power Rodding Corp. for the 2022 Sewer Rehabilitation Program that was completed in November 2022 in the amount of \$46,711.17 – **AGENDA**

Alderman Key motioned to approve the first payment to National Rodding Corp. in the amount of \$46,711.17, seconded by Chairman Bylut. All in favor, **motion carries**.

- **IEPA Project Plan:** A few months ago, there was a 10-year project plan that was brought in front of this committee with the intention to pay for this capital improvement project plan using low interest IEPA loans. We submitted our initial plan to IEPA to see if we could obtain funding or a loan for this project. The application was approved so we now have to post a public notice that we are doing a categorical exclusion for environmental review. The environmental review or study is necessary when using federal/state money. They reviewed our proposal and ruled there is little impact to the environment, so we now have to post this exclusion and have our project plan available to the public for 10 days for viewing. They are going to provide us with a 1.24% interest rate on our loans, with a 20-year payback period for each loan we take. Overall, we have not been approved, but we have met their criteria to receive the loan. This information will be posted in the Regional to show how we are going to be paying for these funds once we address our water rates as well. We applied for a FEMA grant back in November and made additional notes in December for \$1.6 million of which we would pay 25% of, and the federal government would pay 75%. FEMA offers grants that would mitigate hazards, so it doesn't necessarily mean it needs to be used for floods. We applied for a FEMA grant for the hospital pump station upgrade, for an environmentally safe generator that would keep this pump station running. This would be our main source to the hospital which we had to break down the necessity to FEMA to obtain this grant. The state emergency management agency reviewed our application so now we are waiting for a response from FEMA.
- **Menominee Lift Station Update:** Currently the lift station is under construction, so the pressurized sanitary pipe that goes from Menominee Lift Station to Westgate Court. This has been installed and pressure tested, it is currently not active but it is good for the time being. The lift station equipment has been delivered to the site where there is a generator, the pumps and the electrical composure onsite. We are hoping to start site construction in February due to the delay of the material.
 - Request payment approval for to Integral Construction Inc. for the Menominee Life Station Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$218,911.00 – **AGENDA**

Chairman Bylut moved to approve the payment for the Menominee Lift Station in the amount \$218,911.00, seconded by Alderman McGrogan. All in favor, **motion carries**.

- **Palos Hospital Reservoir:** We wanted Van's Industrial to patch the area around the vent, and we received a proposal of just under \$20,000 that we believed would be the cost. When they brought in the crane to do the inspection and measurements, they realized that the top of the tank started to flex to the point where the crew did not feel comfortable working on it. We spoke with Van's to reach an agreement to repair the tank, and the total is \$7,251.00.
 - Request payment approval to Van's Industrial Inc. for the tank vent replacement at the Palos Hospital Reservoir in the amount of \$4,950.00 – **AGENDA**
 - Request approval for a scope of work change for the tank vent repair at the Palos Hospital Reservoir with Van's Industrial Inc. in the amount of \$7,251.00 totaling an amount of \$27,183.00 – **AGENDA**

Alderman Key moved to approve the payment for the tank vent replacement totaling \$4,950.00, and the tank vent repair for the Palos Hospital Reservoir totaling \$7,251.00, seconded by Chairman Bylut. All in favor, **motion carries**.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Director Jasinski sought approval for the following:

- RJN Group was working on our 2022 sewer rehab and we have been working with GIS Services to keep track of lead and water services we have already inspected. We are able to note what locations have been inspected and those who we have no record on, they can send a picture of their services so we can tell if they have lead or copper. Everything we have been sent and seen has been copper so far, which is a good sign. Public works believes there is no lead in the city based on previous encounters with residents, but we must provide proof. GIS Services allows us to track this information, and RJN has been of assistance as well.
 - Request payment approval for professional services with RJN Group for the 2022 Sewer Rehab Design and Construction rendering through December 2, 2022 and December 30, 2022, the 2022 On-Call Sewer System Services, and for the GIS Services rendering through December 30, 2022 in the amount of \$8,159.38. – **AGENDA**

Alderman McGrogan moved to approve the payment for professional services with RJN Group for the 2022 and On-Call Sewer System Services and for GIS Services-ON Call in the amount of \$8,159.38, seconded by Alderman Key. All in favor, **motion carries**.

- Request payment approval for professional services with Morris Engineering for the Palos Hospital Pump Station in the amount of \$588.50. – **VOUCHER**
- Request payment approval for professional service with LAN from September 3, 2022 through December 23, 2022 for the 2MG Water Reservoir Reconditioning in the amount of \$2,353.00. – **VOUCHER**
- Request payment approval for professional services with Strand Associates for On-Call Engineering Services from November 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022 in the amount of \$1,914.59. – **VOUCHER**
- Request payment for professional services with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd for the CalSag Trail (at Lake Katherine) Engineering Services from March 22, 2022 to December 31, 2022 in the amount \$2,507.42. – **VOUCHER**

- Water Rates Increase: Adam explained to the committee that since 2019, the city has not increased our water rates. It was discussed that this issue should be evaluated, especially with the capital improvement projects nearing the next couple years. Adam stated how important it was that we have adequate funding in order to cover these projects and pay back loans that we are going to obtain with the projects. We compared water usage, past history, how much water we've purchased and compared it to our capital improvement projects. We also looked at our 2021 revenue coming in and the money we make on penalty payments to compare what our numbers would look like in 2023. Currently, we do not have our 2022 numbers because our spreadsheet was completed in December, and at the time the year wasn't completed, nor do we have all of the invoices for 2022's budget. Overall, the numbers have been steady through the past 4 years and we project very similar numbers for 2023. Our spreadsheet shows water fees and sewer fees. Right now our sewer fee is a flat fee, so every resident in the city pays the same. Our proposal is to increase the sewer fee by 50% which correlates to a \$20 increase quarterly for a total of \$80 more annually.

Alderman McGrogan expressed concerns towards comparing the 2021 numbers to 2022. It was asked that the committee is presented with 2022 numbers and table this issue until the February meeting. Alderman Key and Chairman Bylut were expressing that even though we do not wish to raise the rates, it will become a necessity with the upcoming projects. Adam continuously showed the committee what the projected numbers would be for 2023-2027 and that unfortunately, this year would be the hard hit for the residents, with a 50% increase but even back out with a 3.5% increase for future years.

Overall, Alderman McGrogan motioned to table this conversation until Adam was able to present the 2022 numbers, seconded by Alderman Begley.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Bylut moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Key. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Pukula, Recording Secretary