

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
March 19, 2024

The meeting of the Public Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Chairman Keith Endy. Present in addition to Mr. Endy were committee members Thomas McHugh, Jarid Miller, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Council members Jeffrey Cascino and Charles Heller, Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; Ralph Schoenly and Alex Eidle, Inframark, LLC; Jason Newhard, SSM, Inc. and numerous interested citizens.

Mr. Endy called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 20th, 2024 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Endy, seconded by Mr. McHugh, and approved.

Inframark Report – Water and Sewer

Mr. Schoenly reviewed the operator's report for February 2024. The complete report is on file in the administrative office.

Spotts, Stevens & McCoy Report

Mr. Newhard reviewed the engineers' report for February 2024. The complete report is on file in the administrative office.

Reporting on pending developments, Mr. Newhard noted that Swamp Creek Development, which consists of a one-hundred twenty five unit personal care home and thirty nine townhomes, is close to entering the construction phase.

The developer of the Colebrookdale Retirement Community consisting of a one hundred sixty four lot aged restricted community appears anxious to begin the construction phase; however, there are outstanding DEP permitting issues to be resolved, which includes a construction permit for the booster pump station.

Mr. Newhard also advised that bids for Maintenance of the Water Tanks are due on April 19th. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled to be held on March 25th. In general the contract consists of exterior and interior cleaning and inspection of our three storage tanks for a contract term of five years. The contract will also include exterior coating of each tank during the five year contract period.

Mr. Newhard then reviewed a water allocation analysis. The 2023 average daily consumption is 786,000; our maximum production capacity is 1,200,000 GPD. Our current production is sixty six percent of capacity. The total current new development allocation is 119,448 GPD; bringing the daily GPD to 905,448 or seventy five percent of capacity. Mr.

Newhard explained that if a major leak or fire event depletes ten percent of our storage capacity at Cannon Hill, which is equivalent to 200,000 gallons, sixteen to twenty four hours would be required for our system to recover. Mr. Newhard recommends we do not approve any future allocations that would put the water system GPD at more than 1,000,000.

Discussion then turned to options to increase our production capacity. Those include purchasing water from other systems to augment our available supply, purchase another water system, drill groundwater wells, possibly on a development by development basis, add additional filters to existing water treatment plant, or build a new water treatment plant. A lengthy discussion ensued following which the committee directed Mr. Newhard to further investigate an addition to the existing water treatment plant.

Unfinished Business – Water and Sewer

There was no unfinished business to conduct.

New Business – Water and Sewer

Field Logic Upgrade – Spectrum Manager Lease – Mr. Newhard, Mr. Schoenly and Mrs. Loder reviewed with the committee software upgrade pricing for radio read technology. The software and training cost is \$2,800.00; annual support cost is \$2,274.94, and a Command Link II is \$846.99. This software will replace the current Field Logic hand held meter reading device and software. Mr. Newhard stated that the new developments are required to use IPerl meters with radio read capability. The committee was also advised that staff is developing a 5 year plan to replace all meters with IPerl meters with radio read technology. This will eliminate the need to have two staff members reading water meters for three weeks, and will increase meter accuracy by replacing old meters. The anticipated annual cost is \$300,000. Further discussion will be held on this matter at a future meeting. A motion to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the Spectrum Manager Lease will be listed on the agenda of the April 1st meeting of Borough Council.

Public Comment

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. was made by Mr. Endy, second by Mr. Miller. The next meeting of the Public Utilities Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Manager