

**MINUTES**  
**City of New Berlin**  
**Special Utility Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday May 31, 2006**

Members Present: Alderman Gallagher, Alderman Ament, Alderman Harenda, Commissioner Bob Dude, and Commissioner Jim Morrissey

Others Present: Rick Johnson (Utility Manager), Jim Hart (Utility Supervisor), City Attorney Mark Blum, Mayor Jack Chiovero, Ralph Chipman (Accounting Manager), Steve Schultz and Greg Bolin (Ruekert & Mielke), Daniel Snyder, Bandon Foss, Kelly Zylstra and Todd Weik (Crispell Snyder), & Sue Hanley (Office Coordinator Utilities & Streets)

Chairman Gallagher called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. declaring a quorum with all members present

**ITEM UT E-06 Approval of minutes from May 23rd meeting**

Motion by Alderman Harenda to approve minutes from May 23rd meeting. Seconded by Alderman Ament and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM UT 08-06 Discussion and possible action to recommend to Council the award of an Engineering agreement for the Design work to reconstruct Wells #3, 5 & 7 to comply with the Radium Consent Order**

Alderman Gallagher said that Ruekert & Mielke had a short presentation about their proposal for the radium treatment of the wells.

Steve Schultz from Ruekert & Mielke discussed a PowerPoint presentation on the Radium Treatment Project with the history of what the City had done since 1999, verification of previous recommendations, current costs, work completed to date and qualifications of Ruekert & Mielke. He explained the Alternative Treatment Evaluations and said that R & M looked at the 3 best options based on a benefits analysis, applied construction costs, applied 50-yr present worth of O & M costs, and then ranked the options. Based upon that, he said that Ruekert & Mielke had HMO Filtration as the first choice.

Mayor Chiovero arrived at 8:50 a.m.

Greg Bolin, Design Engineer, explained what HMO – Hydrous Manganese Oxide treatment was, and said it is a chemical pretreatment added to water to remove the radium. He added that the water manganese oxide absorbs the radium which is filtered out. Mr. Bolin said that he expects 75-80% radium removal, which exceeds what the City of New Berlin needs to meet DNR compliance. He said an added benefit of HMO is that it removes 90% of the Iron and Manganese, but he added that it does not remove hardness. Mr. Bolin further stated that if the Tonka Equipment was used, the chemicals are premixed and although they cost approximately 8 cents/thousand gallons pumped more, the Layne system would require Utility employees approximately 4-5 hours per week to mix chemicals, a virtual wash in cost of material vs. labor. Mr. Schultz added that the HMO process does not remove hardness, but most complaints from customers are iron related, and this system removes iron and radium.

Steve Schultz presented a specific equipment evaluation that listed the advantages and disadvantages of Layne vs. Tonka Equipment. He said that the Layne system is proprietary and has not been proven yet vs. the Tonka system which is more generic.

Commissioner Dude questioned some of the equipment charges that Ruekert & Mielke had provided. Mr. Bolin and Mr. Schultz said that he would look into the figures provided by Commissioner Dude that Mr. Johnson had acquired when he contacted Layne, to see if they are comparing the same equipment and to review the discrepancy.

Mr. Schultz said that his goal was still not to have to build anything (radium removal system) and get Milwaukee water for the other water Utility customers in New Berlin. He said that he has received positive feedback from the State, but no feedback from the City of Milwaukee. He stated that R & M has the preliminary DNR approval for the radium compliance plan, and the timeframe is 45 days to DNR Submittal, then direct purchase of equipment, bid and award. Mr. Schultz reported the progress to date: approval of process design by DNR, significant design of Wells 3 and 7, start of design of Well 5, and MMSD and other preliminary approvals.

The Utility Committee thanked Ruekert & Mielke for their presentation and took a short break.

Crispell Snyder was asked to present their alternatives for the radium compliance issues. Mr. Snyder introduced his staff: Kelly Zylstra, Brandon Foss and Todd Weik, and said that the company had done work for New Berlin in the past and would love to work on this project.

Kelly Zylstra, Senior Project Managers said that there are various technologies available to remove radionuclide from water and explained the 3 "best" systems for radium removal for New Berlin, based on her evaluations and research. She discussed the costs, advantages and disadvantages of the HMO, Ion Exchange and Adsorptive Media/WRT treatments. She also provided detailed reference material and case studies.

The Utility Committee asked Ms. Zylstra for her recommendation. Ms. Zylstra said that each City is unique and if New Berlin went with the HMO system, the Tonka equipment is tried and true and requires less water versus the Layne system which has had a pilot study done, but has no actual plants done here. She said that she recommended the Tonka equipment and has had success with it.

Alderman Ament said that the Adsorptive Media/WRT system was very attractive and listed no issues with MMSD. Ms. Zylstra said that the drawback is a 20-year annual maintenance contract that is very thick, and it requires a 22' vessel or two-11 foot vessel, plus a detention tank.

Ms. Zylstra said that an analysis of cost can be done within 30 days or authorization, and that staff was available and would be thrilled to design the treatment plant. She said that design would take 18-26 weeks, with 90 days for DNR to approve, with construction to start in Spring.

The Committee thanked Crispell Snyder for their presentation and took a 5 minute break.

The Utility Committee had another brief discussion and agreed that it would be difficult to switch designers at this point in time. Alderman Gallagher suggested another Special Utility Committee meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in which Ruekert & Mielke would provide further information to the Committee.

Mr. Morrissey said that the Committee would like specifics on the following from Ruekert & Mielke:

- ◆ Scope of Work – deliverables
- ◆ Total hours – breakdown of hours (example: senior project engineer hours, engineer hours, etc)
- ◆ Fee Schedule
- ◆ Timeline
- ◆ Delivery Date

Mayor Chiovatero said that he would use the minutes from this meeting to draft a letter to Ruekert & Mielke requesting these items.

Alderman Gallagher asked the City Attorney if this needed to be voted on now. City Attorney Mark Blum said that if you are going to separate out the issues if you are going to be asking for more direction by the consultant about the process, you want to have this in place before you make your final decision who the consultant is. Attorney Blum said from his standpoint, his issues have been resolved. He said that it is just a matter of specifics that Mr. Morrissey mentioned that should be added in terms of deliverables as an attachment to the contract. Alderman Harenda said that he thinks the Committee would like everything cleaned up and the numbers worked out before they make a decision.

Commissioner Dude asked that R & M work with Rick regarding the differences in equipment charges. He would like R & M to say as of the 6<sup>th</sup> of June for example, these are the numbers we have from Layne and Tonka, and asked them to review the numbers before the next meeting.

City Attorney Mark Blum said right now you are getting different requests from different people for information and we don't know if it compares apples to apples. Attorney Blum said that R & M needs to obtain documentation from Layne saying this is what we are quoting for this particular item, so everyone is working on the same numbers.

Alderman Gallagher said that he has been down this road personally, with one person getting a quote for this piece of equipment, and another person for another piece of equipment, instead of getting a quote for the whole package.

Alderman Harenda added that he would like Rick Johnson or Jim Hart to address anything they would like to see in this proposal, such as pre-mixed vs. mixing chemicals, and input from them up front with any concerns that they have with either of the systems since they are going to have to deal with the system.

Motion by Alderman Gallagher to table item UT 08-06 until June 12<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Commissioner Morrisey and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

**Communication:        Ralph Chipman: Utility Revenues & Expenditures Year-To-Date**

Ralph Chipman, Accounting Manager, said that he would be providing Monthly Revenue and Expenditure reports for the Utility, and a Quarterly report on Capitals. He said that in general, both Utilities are doing OK, and when the radium issue gets decided, he would review the Water Utility rates. He said that the Sewer rates are reviewed annual based on MMSD and DNR requirements.

Mr. Chipman said the \$250,000 borrowed for the design of the radium compliance project was borrowed from remaining Forest View CIP funds, and the remainder will be borrowed from the Sewer Utility and put on a repayment schedule when he gets the numbers from the project.

Commissioner Dude asked if we can do it as a line of credit first, and not borrow the money until the work is finalized. Mr. Chipman said that we can look into borrowing the money as we spend it.

Mr. Chipman said that there has been in a change in the impact fee state laws, and that the Water fees are OK, but the Sewer fees will have to be reviewed and the Utility may need a study to see what we need to charge. He reminded the Committee that these impact fees collected must be spent within 5 years.

**ITEM UT 10-06        Election of Chairperson**

Motion by Alderman Harenda to nominate Alderman Gallagher as Chairman of the Utility Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Morrisey.

Motion to close nominations by Commissioner Dude. Seconded by Alderman Ament, and upon voting the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the nomination of Alderman Gallagher for Utility Committee chairman by Commissioner Dude. Seconded by Alderman Harenda and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. by Commissioner Morrisey. Seconded by Alderman Ament and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Suzette Hanley - Office Coordinator, Utilities & Streets*