

Minutes

NEW BERLIN UTILITY COMMITTEE

April 03, 2002

Members Present: Alderman Gallagher, Alderman Ament, Alderman Thomas, Michael Holzinger (Director Finance and Utility) Mr. Dude (Citizen Member)

Others Present: Mayor Wysocki, Gregg Kessler (Director of Community Development) JP Walker (City Engineer) Larry Wilms (Division Engineer) Jim Hart (Interim Lead Water Operator) Tom Ludwig (R A Smith) Dan Butler (Ruekert Mielke) Dennis Kasian (KASCO)

Alderman Gallagher called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

ITEM D-02 Approve minutes of March 6, 12 and 26.

Motion by Mr. Dude to approve the minutes of the March 6th Utility Committee Meeting. Second by Alderman Thomas, and passed unanimously.

Motion by Alderman Thomas to approve the minutes of the March 12 and 26 special Utility Committee Meetings. Second by Mr. Holzinger, and passed unanimously.

ITEM 31-99 Award of Contract for Sewer System Evaluation Survey (LSSES)

Motion by Mr. Holzinger to recommend to Council to approve final payment for Professional Services Agreement with R.A. Smith & Associates, Consulting Engineers, for changes in the scope of work for technical services on LSSES Project in the amount of \$117,514.57, bringing the total payments to the maximum authorized amount of \$688,762.90 for Project #K-328 and to be funded by Wastewater Retained Earnings. Second by Mr. Dude.

Lengthy discussion included questions regarding dollar amounts, the lack of written documentation, the actual number of manholes, and authorization issues. J.P. Walker and Larry Wilms responded to those questions, with Mr. Ludwig of R.A. Smith concurring that authorization and change orders were generally verbal, and handled via emails, status reports and meetings held with City staff.

Upon voting, the motion passed with Alderman Ament opposing.

ITEM 20-00 KASCO Sanitary Sewer Oversizing Request

Questions in regard to why this particular issue has come before the Utility Committee, and where it should be directed. Mr. Kasian addressed the committee to present his case. After discussion, the Committee, with Mr. Kessler concurring, and J.P. Walker's apology for misdirection, Mr. Kasian is informed that he will need to take this item to the Plan Commission for approval, and once resolved, it will come before this committee.

ITEM 38-01 Reallocation of approved Project Funds, Phase II Manhole Rehab

Motion by Mr. Dude to authorize staff to proceed with Scope of Work and resultant contract cost increases for Kim Construction, Inc. for Contract "B" in an amount not exceeding \$17,500 of Contingency funds for Project #K-344. This results in the contingency for Contract "A" being reduced to \$10,987. The total project costs remain as originally authorized at \$1,262,500 from Wastewater Utility Account #831.04. Second by Mr.

Holzinger.

Questions were raised by the Committee in regard to the original contract award; why it was bid as two rather than one, where is the cost savings the City expected to see due to the splitting of the contract, are we confident that we will not go over the bid, and whose responsibility is it to supply the contractor with correct information. Mr. Wilms and J.P. Walker responded to these questions, inform the committee that they would obviously prefer to complete all of the manholes that were intended to be included in this program, ask for committee direction on the issue, and add a reminder that if approval is not forthcoming, they will be forced to issue a stop work order.

Lengthy discussion ensued on the manhole issue i.e.: can we expect to see more updates and reports on this issue and future issues, will the manhole count become more accurate, will we be looking at a change order if more, or additional problematic manholes are found, and will Utility staff be able to maintain upon completion. J.P. Walker addressed the issue of the additional manholes, and explained that they are finding, due to changing conditions, more deterioration has occurred from the onset of the project to the current date. Mr. Holzinger addressed the issue of staff maintenance, stating that with current staffing limitations, there is not sufficient time to inspect all of the manholes annually, however, there was approximately \$500,000 made available in the budget to contract out some of the cleaning and televising. The ultimate goal being having the system cleaned and televised at least once thoroughly.

Upon voting, the motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 06-02 Year End Financial Report

Mr. Holzinger summarized the year-end Financial Report presented, with the understanding that the auditors have not yet completed their report. Both Utilities have had good years, and the net income was positive. A more complete picture will be presented in the near future.

ITEM 07-02 5-Year Capital Projects and Annual Maintenance Tracking System

Mr. Dude presented what he would like to see by way of a tracking system in light of recent events, and projects. A good example would be the ongoing Milwaukee Water issue, and the need for tracking and updating.

ITEM 08-02 Curb Stop Charges

Motion by Mr. Holzinger to approve staff invoicing customers for stop box repairs. Motion dies due to lack of a second.

Discussion on the issue of whether or not customers should be charged for curb stop repairs. Presentation by Jim Hart, Interim Lead Water Operator on the kinds, and costs of various repair jobs, and the fees currently charged by Wisconsin Gas. General committee consensus that homeowner should not be charged unless the damage is blatant. Staff is directed to come up with a policy dealing with the normal wear and tear on curb stop boxes, and possible charges for negligent damage, and return to committee.

ITEM 09-02 New Utility Meeting Date and Time

Item brought back to the committee from March 6th meeting in order to verify that when items from the Utility Committee are taken to the Council, they will be done so on the second meeting of the month. This will allow staff sufficient lead-time to properly gather and prepare information for consideration.

ITEM 10-02A Engineering Agreement Approval for Lake Michigan Water Study

Motion by Mr. Dude to recommend to Council to authorize award of a Professional Services Agreement with Ruekert-Mielke, Consulting Engineers, for Technical Services associated with negotiations at a cost not to exceed \$12,840.00 and Radionuclide Evaluation Phase at a cost not to exceed \$47,792.00 to facilitate Lake Michigan Water Supply for City to be funded by Water Utility Account #923.42. Second by Mr. Holzinger.

Discussion began with a presentation by J.P. Walker on the issue, and the desire of staff to award the contract to Ruekert-Mielke, and avoid the RFP route. Questions by the committee included the \$150,150.00 "Undetermined scope"; why we are entering into a contract when the decision to take Milwaukee water has not yet been determined; how long this process will take from design to completion, and what progress has been made at the Milwaukee negotiations meetings, and updates from those meetings.

Dan Butler, standing in for Steve Schulz of Ruekert- Mielke responds to the questions involving the negotiation progress, and informed the committee that there is no reason to believe this will be a political issue with the City of Milwaukee.

Mr. Holzinger reminds the committee of the time element involved, and the need for expediency should the Council agree to go with Milwaukee water, especially when we recall the events of last year, and the well situation.

Upon voting, the motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 10-02B Appraisal Authorization for Lake Michigan Proposed Booster Station

Motion by Mr. Dude to recommend to Council to authorize staff to secure proposals and proceed with retaining appraisal services for the full taking of a lot or lots in the vicinity of 124th Street and Grange Avenue suitable for future use as the site of the Grange Avenue Water Booster Pumping Station for a professional services fee not to exceed \$3,500.00 to come from account #923.42. Second by Alderman Ament.

Mr. Wilms explained the issue, emphasizing the need for expediency due to the fact that there is an exceptionally long lead-time for qualified appraisers due to complexity and regulations.

ITEM 11-02 Well Update

Presentation by Mr. Holzinger brought the committee up to date on the particulars of well issues, and current conditions. Several questions surface in regard to the Well 8 situation, the bid process upcoming, and the ongoing costs to keep this well running prior to the installation of a new pump and motor.

ITEM 12-02 Cease Bulk Water Sales

Mr. Holzinger presented the case to cease bulk water sales during the months in which there will be watering restrictions. Questions raised included who are the major water purchasers, how much is purchased, and who regulates those sales. Jim Hart of the Water Utility responded to the questions. The committee agrees this is a problem of perception, and directs staff to put in place a policy to prohibit the sale of bulk water with the exception of City projects.

ITEM 13-02 Lake Michigan Water Diversion Request Update

Mr. Holzinger discussed the letter of response from the DNR in regard to the diversion of Lake Michigan water.

ITEM 14-02 WEPCO Easement at Tower #3

Motion by Mr. Dude to recommend to Common Council to approve the utility easement with Wisconsin

Electric Power Company, agent, for a public easement on City Water Utility Lands located at the Water Tower #3 site on Parcel key #1255-991-008. Second by Alderman Thomas.

Brief explanation on the merits of the proposal by Mr. Wilms.

Upon voting, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Holzinger at 7:20 p.m. Second by Alderman Ament, and passed unanimously.