Utilities Commission | June 1, 2021

Commission Meeting | Minutes | 8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Ball	City Engineer	Present	
Richard Dzik	Safety Service Director	Present	
Keith Burley	Alternate Member	Present	
Elizabeth Doolittle		Absent	
Kenneth Griffith		Late	8:40 AM

Others in attendance: P. Robert Broeren, Director of Law; Tammy Woods, Council Representative; Lindsay Hoar, Recording Secretary

MINUTES APPROVAL

- Utilities Commission - Commission Meeting - May 4, 2021 8:30 AM

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Keith Burley, Alternate Member
SECONDER:	Brian Ball, City Engineer
AYES:	Ball, Dzik, Burley, Griffith
ABSENT:	Doolittle

ADJUSTMENT JOURNAL

May Adjustment Journal Unavailable

NEW BUSINESS

Mount Vernon Developmental Center Contract

Mr. Dzik said we are due this month for a new contract with the Mount Vernon

Developmental Center. This has been going on; we've had this contract for about twenty years now. It's been unchanged. Do you remember what the percentage discount we give them is?
Mr. Broeren: 15%
Mr. Burley said they pay 15% above our rate.
Mr. Broeren said that's their surcharge.
Mr. Dzik said he doesn't have any intention of adjusting that but if we could have a little discussion about it. Does anybody have issues with us continuing our contract with them at the same rate as previously?
Mr. Burley asked what would be a reason to modify that.
Mr. Dzik said he can't think of one. The reason I say discount is everybody out of the city pays an increase surcharge. Theirs is actually a little less I think. The typical surcharge is 20%, isn't it?
Mr. Ball said no it's different. It's a balancing act. If you're outside the city, outside of Clinton Township, it's typically a 15% surcharge but then the bulk discounts kick in. Gambier is outside of the city but they get a bulk discount because of their consumption. It's a sliding scale.
Mr. Broeren said he thinks 15%, from what I remember; hearing 15% was the standard surcharge.
Mr. Ball said for Non-Clinton Township. But if they use more water then they get a discount. We have a contract with the Knox County Fairgrounds because their water use is basically one week a year. We did have a water contract with the Academia. There's a handful of these out there.
Mr. Dzik said the only reason it comes up is, obviously the State's on a two-year budget so we have to renew the contracts every two years.

- Motion to Renew the Contract As-Is

Mr. Broeren said he would note that I believe we've come to an agreement on the Fire/EMS contract for the two-year cycle and I'll next be turning to finalize this now that I have the Commission's approval.

Mr. Ball said just to note, there may be some updates to it.

Mr. Broeren said yes, we are finessing. The rates are the major point but we are finessing some of the language just to try and bring these contracts into line with what we're currently doing.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Ball, City Engineer
SECONDER:	Keith Burley, Alternate Member
AYES:	Ball, Dzik, Burley, Griffith
ABSENT:	Doolittle

Utility Metrics

Mr. Burley requested an update on the unaccounted water and just to see where we are on shut-offs. I guess understand how that cycles through a month because we may have 100 potential shut-offs, I don't have a feel for how many actually end up shut-off.

Mr. Griffith said he has to get with Lisa. I've scheduled some time with her to get more involved with the office. I don't have the accurate numbers on the shut-offs and the way it cycles. But as far as the water loss, we have put in meters so a lot of our stuff that was unmetered previously, we've been able to meter. Last year we were being paid for 49% of our water. The last time I ran those numbers with the new consumption records we have with the new metering we've done and all of the repairs we've made, we're up to 57%.

Mr. Ball asked if Mr. Burley wants to talk about the issue with the plant, we have related to fixing our leaks.

Mr. Griffith said our facilities rated for 6 million gallon per day, on the design you're looking at 4,000 gallons per minute. The more we repair, the more work we do, the more we take care of the lost water; our production's coming down at the facility. Currently, we're running between 1,200-1,500 gallons per minute through a facility that was designed for 4,000. At some point, our equipment only goes so slow, so the more we repair the more we need to change operations over at the facility.

Mr. Burley said the lime slaker is one of those issues. We talked about it several months ago.

Mr. Griffith said one or our options would be if we get to the point where we could batch water, then we could run the facility - we could fill all the storage and then we wait. At the same time, we have that issue in distribution with storage. That's why we're looking at other elevated tanks, other things to help us. We're also looking at (inaudible) we have more control over our distribution. That will help us a little bit; we'll have more control over where the flow's going. Still at some point all of our chemical feeds pumps, our slakers, they'll only go so slow.

Mr. Ball said that's something we haven't really talked about. We've focused a little bit on the concept of we really need more customers but as Kenny's group's doing a really good job getting these leaks stopped, it's bringing that to the forefront that we don't have enough customers with the way the plant's set up. Now we are looking, our modelers are looking at other locations for elevated tanks and storage. Or we could take this approach of we would set up a rotation where the plant would actually be turned off for part of the day or we start to look at pretty major retrograde to change, add smaller pumps and retrofit the plant to operate at a slower rate. With your variable sequence drives, you can only turn it down so far and it doesn't operate at all. That's becoming a little more critical so we want to bring that up to this group.

Mr. Griffith said we had never really even thought of that, as we were moving forward with all the leak detection and leak repair. It was actually the Chief Operator that approached me and said you keep doing this I'm not going to be able to operate the plant.
Mr. Burley said if we batch water, does that allow us to reduce staff.
Mr. Griffith said potentially it might. I've been in facilities where we did that. We didn't operate 24-hours per day; yeah we were able to do a little staffing reduction. But the same time, right now our distribution system is not set up to even approach that idea. We have to keep our high service pumps on 24 hours a day, if we don't, we can't maintain system pressure.
Mr. Ball said your water storage at the plant is below ground so to send that out and maintain the pressure; it has to be pumped all the time. Our system is not configured to operate with the plant turned off.
Mr. Griffith said there's several things we're going to have to address as we move forward. Currently the way it would sit, we would have to count on the reservoir to be turning our high service pumps on and off as it's needed. What we're finding is that's kind of a tough thing to do.
Mr. Ball said the reservoir is not necessarily located correctly to maintain the low-pressure zone. It's located to help feed the east end and Gambier. So friction of the return water, it takes a long time for the water to get from the reservoir to the Industrial Park and it's not in the centroid of that district of water so it causes some problems.
Mr. Dzik asked Mr. Griffith to keep the group updated every month on how we're doing with lost water and all those new meters we've put in there.
Mr. Griffith said that's his plan. He wants to get with Lisa (at the Water Office). I need to be more involved over there.
Mr. Ball said the shut-offs were down to 1%; there's always people who forget.
Mr. Dzik said he can listen to them when they're going on and it sounds like there's a lot of shut-off, turn back on.
Mr. Griffith said there is a lot of that and we did have some issues last week with the server being down again. I was getting a lot of texts; people couldn't get their bills paid.

North McKinley Street Water Line

Mr. Ball said we've applied for the permit to install from the EPA. This should be pretty straightforward. What I was to ask is we would potentially buy the supplies and hire one of our usual suspects to install the water line because we want to pave. North McKinley is on our paving list, partly because the road was destroyed with the sewer line install and this water line has to tie into the south side of Pleasant Street and Pleasant Street is also on our paving list. It's something we want to get done pretty quickly. Obviously when we order materials, we have no idea how long it will take to get them. It's a pretty short run. This goes from the south side of Pleasant Street north, underneath Curtis Run and then terminates very shortly thereafter with a fire hydrant. We're replacing, I think it's a 1¼" galvanized line with an actual 6" fire flow with at least one, maybe two fire hydrants. There's a lot of galvanized pipes there on Spring Street. North McKinley, we got close enough to it just the ground movement damaged it when we were putting the sewer line in.
Mr. Dzik asked if that galvanized is the stuff, we've had problems with in the past.

Mr. Ball said most of the galvanized is at end of life.
Mr. Burley asked if there was a cost estimate.
Mr. Ball said he thinks our all-in cost was about $60,000 but then part of that's materials which we've already bid out. It would be less than $50,000 to hire the contractor.

- Motion to Hire One of Usual Contractors to Install the North McKinley Street Water Line Project

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Ball, City Engineer
SECONDER:	Keith Burley, Alternate Member
AYES:	Ball, Dzik, Burley, Griffith
ABSENT:	Doolittle

Edgewood Road Utility Replacement

Mr. Ball said Kenny came to me; we've been doing lot of statistics and tracking of our water breaks. Kenny is very nervous about the Edgewood Road water line. We have a nursing facility there at Edgewood and Gambier; it's fed off of these older water lines that are breaking on a regular basis. Everyone that is south of Gambier Road, that entire neighborhood is few off the pipe from Edgewood Road. There's no loops or interconnect of any sort. It's all fed off of one line. Kenny feels this a critical asset, its condition is extremely poor, and so he has asked that we get started on the Engineering to replace this immediately.
Mr. Burley asked where this would go from and to.
Mr. Ball said he did not know yet. At a minimum, we would go from High Street south the 229. South of 229, the pipe is in a lot better condition. The pipe on Marita and Edgewood is also in poor condition.
Mr. Griffith arrive at 8:40 a.m.
Mr. Ball said to Mr. Griffith that you're very concerned about the Edgewood Road water line so we were going to talk about that. I gave a little bit of background.
Mr. Griffith said you go through it historically for the last 30 years; we're continually repairing that line. The big part of the issue is if you look up there, there's 2" lines, 1¼" lines. There's not volume, there's no fire flow. There's several reasons we need to look at replacing that line.
Mr. Ball said there's the nursing home. We have a critical user that's on the lines.
Mr. Dzik asked if we've had a lot of breaks on that one.
Mr. Griffith said we've had several. For the last 30 years, every year we're continually patching that line.
Mr. Ball said in the order of things, the Clinton Road area is probably a little worse but we're pretty far down the road on design for Clinton Road so this would be the beginning of design.
Mr. Burley asked what else do you anticipate this including beyond water.
Mr. Ball said we've got to camera to find out where we can put a new water line. We would have to camera the sanitary and the storm. The storm system is trash. Due to the resistance of the neighborhood, we would probably start with the water line. At some point, we'd like to

look at some improvements to some traffic calming and some other things if we can reach mutual agreements with folks. At this point we would be doing surveying and looking at where we would put water lines and things along that line.

- Motion to Enter Into Contracts With Engineering Firms to Design a Utility Replacement Project for the Areas of Edgewood, New Gambier and Gambier Road

Mr. Griffith showed a map to indicating each break. The critical user is highlighted. All of the green is what we repaired from October.

Mr. Ball said Kenny had our guys switch over on the map, the historical breaks are pinkish/magenta and the green are staring in October to track the recent breaks. It's pretty telling the difference in what we're seeing.

Mr. Dzik said he remembers this from when we were running our budgets, we do try and budget a certain amount every year for replacement, do you remember how much it is.

Mr. Ball said to clarify, this would only be engineering. We would not be ready to do any construction in this calendar year. The goal would be we get through some of the Engineering; we get some of the estimates. We're going to have to work through alternatives for this one because we've got to keep the system on while we change the line. If we want to include in this, we are also going to look at bringing another 6" line down Gambier Road to help potentially bolster the system and another 6" line from the high pressure in both cases down New Gambier Road to supply the people that have low pressure. This is sort of an Edgewood area project but it's going to include New Gambier and Gambier Road. We have a possible option of running a high-pressure line down to Edgewood, putting in a pressure-reducing vault to feed to kind of create a loop.

Mr. Griffith said currently it is not a loop. If you can see on here where the critical user is, I have a valve that's right above them, just north of them, if we close that valve, this entire area is without water.

Mr. Ball said we talked about running a line down Mount Vernon Avenue but that area has very shallow bedrock and it would be extremely expensive to try to loop that to downtown from that section.

Mr. Burley asked what the Engineering costs would be.

Mr. Ball said probably all in we're less than $40,000.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Ball, City Engineer
SECONDER:	Keith Burley, Alternate Member
AYES:	Ball, Dzik, Burley, Griffith
ABSENT:	Doolittle

OLD BUSINESS

Source Water Assessment Plan

Mr. Ball said I think we've got a draft. We have to pass an ordinance, the Source Water Protection Ordinance. We were supposed to do it in 2012. I don't think we've sent that Rob yet. I think it's on the list but I didn't have it on the top of your. This was a goal we had to get done before Mr. Orndorf retired. We're supposed to maintain a committee for that. We've contacted the folks that were contacted previously, they are still interested. We would have an ordinance, it would be bolted into city code and then we would have a plan that's a separate document.
Mr. Broeren said he has not seen it yet.
Mr. Ball said we've hired Emily McKinley. She's been updating that from the 2012 version. I think Keith -
Mr. Burley said yes he's gone over it as well.
Mr. Ball said the two of us have gone over it. I think we're close to ready to send that the Rob for a formal review and prep for City Council.
Mr. Burley asked if Kenny has seen it.
Mr. Griffith said he has not.
Mr. Burley said you should look at the draft.
Mr. Ball said before we send it to Rob, you'll need to go through it. Mathias and I started working on it in 2016 and then we just had to put it down and more on to other stuff.
Mr. Griffith said he has not seen it and was surprised we didn't have it.
Mr. Ball said we have a draft. We also have a company that's updating the map from the 2012 version too. It's on a list.

Billing Software Update

Mr. Dzik said to Kenny that he still probably has to get together with everybody at the office. Are you aware where they're at with that?
Mr. Griffith said he dove into this with the girls in the office last week to find out where we are. Everything they've tried up to this point apparently has not been something we're capable of doing with the mass amount of rate codes, the things that we have - nobody's been able to work with what we have. As far as the iCloud, I don't know that's just another third party that would incorporate in with the CMI, which doesn't fulfill our needs. I'd like to look into some other alternatives. One of the big things I get from a lot of people here in the 40 and under crowd is they want that extensive online portal. They want to be able to pay online, they want to view their account, they want to set up reoccurring payments. So I think

when we move into this we need to take a look at where the customer service is going and prepare for that.

Mr. Dzik said he knows you guys are on CMI as well as the Auditor, I know the Auditor is doing an upgrade this year and I'm hoping maybe if we talk to CMI, get their teams together - hopefully maybe that upgrade will let us do what we need to do.

Mr. Griffith said he'll keep looking into it but what I've been told up to this point is that it won't.

Mr. Burley said it won't the way it is. I guess my experience with software changes in my career has been, you're never going to find software that matches exactly what you want to do so you have to find something that you can adapt to that becomes maintainable. My concern is it seems like we have one guy that can make changes to the system and that we don't end up with something that's unmaintainable.

Mr. Dzik said we had an intention to go with a product early last year; the biggest issue was it could not allocate revenue into our Auditor's system the way he needed it to

Mr. Burley: or wanted it to.

Mr. Griffith said that's what he wants to look into.

Mr. Ball said a couple of software companies; when you have all the different meter sizes are a rate, you have a senior discount, you have in city out of city. These companies basically said we can't provide you that service. With all the Clinton fees.

Mr. Griffith said he doesn't know if there's a way to consolidate any of those.

Mr. Ball said we'd have to change how we bill and some of that was brought up to City Council and was turned down. Some of this is actually in city code so those changes would have to come from council to be able to eliminate. Then the contracts with Clinton are 50-year contract.

Mr. Dzik asked Kenny, when you finally do dig into this and maybe look at companies or even if we want to set up a meeting with CMI - if you can involve me in on that and I can work with Terry. I've worked with software transitions before so maybe we can try and negotiate some kind of decent solution.

Mr. Griffith said he was curious if the way we build the accounts on our end, if there's something different that we could do that he could use on his end. There may be some changes.

Mr. Dzik said that's where the issues come in. We can still do all the things we need to do under code but it needs to be combined before going to the billing software but it requires a lot of changes on the financial side. I think we're going to need to have a sit down. Maybe we start with CMI and talk to them about what we want and need and see what they have.

Mr. Ball said I think we're making progress. We've got it set up, in the IWorq system, if you do a water permit or a wastewater permit, we will be able to take those payments and route those directly to the Auditor exactly the way he wants them. I think we've got a small win on the permit side that we will be able to accept those all electronically. That takes some burden off the staff. You used to have to come to Engineering to get your permit signed and then you had to walk over and pay for it in the utility office. Now you can pay in Engineering, you can pay in the utility office and you can pay online. Once IWorq is fully up we'll have three options for folks, when they want to get a permit anyway, we'll make that easier for them.

Mr. Griffith said that's one of his concerns too with all of the software. Obviously, you have

software, we have software in the billing office, we have software that we're using for Distribution/Collection. At some point, all of these need to be able to work with each other.

New Gambier Road Reservoir

Councilwoman Woods joined the meeting.

Mr. Ball said we have a contract with Dirt Dawg Excavating. We have not issued them a notice to proceed yet. We will probably do that this week. They're working right now at Oak Street and S. Catherine. We've been trying to work through some modeling and some understandings of the system but we'll probably go ahead and have them start (inaudible) valves and components here pretty soon. We do not have any idea of when we'd actually be starting because we don't know how long it's going to take them to get materials. This gives us some more time to work with our system modelers to kind on ensure we can shut this thing off.

Mr. Griffith said he's ordering the relief valves for the fire hydrants. They're designed to be put in place on the system when you take your elevated tanks, when you take that type of storage offline. Hopefully that'll provide some extra protection.

Mr. Ball said we feel confident in our folks being able to make the repairs; it's just trying to figure out how long we can allow them to have the reservoir offline and coming up with an operations plan that's kind of a temporary scenario. In a theory, if we shut the reservoir down, that will raise the pressure in the downtown system and that's where these relief valves would dump water to regulate the downtown pressures.

Westgate Mobile Home Community

Mr. Ball said he spoke with Mr. Badalamenti last week. We are working through the EPA paperwork to come through an EPA Revolving Loan Fund to not burden our accounts with this project. We talked a little bit about getting this repayment agreement in place. Joe Badalamenti is very eager to get this system replaced but don't see us going to construction this year. We'd be getting through the design and the permitting with the EPA this year. Then we'd be looking at using EPA money next year for construction.
Mr. Burley asked if there was progress on the agreement for the Engineering costs.
Mr. Ball said basically on that side, our discussion was we would set up a 95 account for the money, say it was expended in '20, we would put that on the 95 account. Joe has agreed, we would basically be sending him a monthly bill just from that account. I think the Engineering is broke into three phases. I think in '20 we did preliminary. So as we finish the phases, we will be adding those totals to the 95 account and then he'll start making a monthly payment separate from his current utility bill. We'll start re-cooping our Engineering costs as we go. Then we'll enter into a separate agreement on the re-payment of the construction costs. That way we're getting a pay as you go plan.
Mr. Burley said he'll let Rob decide it but it seems like we should have, in addition to the 95 account, we should have an agreement in place to cover all of that. Just really for the record.
Mr. Ball said we will have. Rob and I had a coordination meeting and that's high on the list.

Stormwater Master Plan

Mr. Ball said from a master planning perspective, Shawn, Lacie, Emily and I have been working going through and updating our status for all of the Engineering projects. Spinning out of that is as we look at our three-year plan, there will be several projects that stormwater will be a tagalong and so we're building that up. We have an unlimited number of consultants that want to charge us $100,000.00 to take our files and organize them into a master plan. We are not interested in the $100,000.00 glossy photo master plan. The other thing we're looking at is we're working very closely with Mr. Tyson in our Street/Stormwater Department, they've done an enormous amount of work this year and we think that easily their work could be, as we have a little more money, their work could be scaled up. Sit down with Terry and Mr. Tyson, trying to balance that how much money goes to construction contracts, how much money goes to work to buy materials and things our folks can complete. If you've seen the project at five point, largely led by our Street/Stormwater Department - very successful. They had a little contractor assist at the end but that was planned and I think it was very successful. They're building their skillset and we don't want to overly fund construction versus keeping our guys making nice progress.

Mr. Dzik said he's been impressed with the Street Department; they do all catch basin installs, catch basin work. They seem to do some limited curb & gutter. They've gotten really good at that. Part of the stormwater utility is, if I recall, all of that catch basin work, curb & gutter work, it was being done with general fund, street funding or paving funding.

Mr. Ball said yeah, the roads and bridges and then a little bit of TIF money if it was on Coshocton Avenue.

Mr. Dzik said part of the whole plan with this was always, let our roads & bridges go toward paving and things we need and we can use the stormwater utility to fund the materials for these other projects. I think that's really good. I do think in terms of creating these master plans and being able to do it in house for these smaller ones, Brian and I have talked, I think by next budget cycle we want to bring a plan for staffing his office up a bit. He and I have talked about a second assistant engineer, as well as a project manager for some of these other items. We're going to keep looking into the lever of tasks. I think at least in my view, there's no shortage of work, there just seems to be a bit of a bottleneck. I don't want that bottleneck to keep us from moving forward. If revenues are looking good by the end of this year, I think it's something we want to talk about.

Mr. Burley said he doesn't think there's a shortage of work. The list of projects isn't the plan, that's what I think, you have to list all the potential projects and then really make sure we've got the priorities. Edgewood Road as an example, if that's not a current stormwater priority, then just because we want to do another project, doesn't necessarily mean that that's part of the stormwater plan. It has to be adaptable but I don't feel like we have a plan. I think that's what we owe after 17 months into it. One of my issues for being here is my interest was in stormwater. I want to see that what we promised we were going to do, which was a stormwater master plan, is that we deliver that. That's one of our responsibilities.

Mr. Ball said the other thing I think we can use is we want to get into the analytics of this first money and how it was spent and really drill down into. Part of this will be an after action review of what we've used the money for and see if that's the correct direction or if there's stuff that we've missed.

Owens Corning

Mr. Griffith said he has not had any communication with them as far as the project. Like we said earlier, we don't have the start date; we do have equipment that's still ordered. Once we have all of the equipment, we have the start date, and we finalize where we're putting equipment and how this is going to go on I'll talk to them. However, the other night we did have our scada system go down at the water plant. When that happens, everything is computer controlled so everything needed to be run manually. In the course of that, all of the high service pumps had gone off, so we did receive phone calls from Owens Corning because we dropped down to 50 psi in the Industrial Park and their alarms were going off.
Mr. Dzik asked what the minimum psi is they need.
Mr. Griffith said they set their alarms at 50, if it goes below 50 their equipment shuts down. We are moving forward with scada, that's something we're looking to update and make that more reliable. It comes back to the elevated tanks, the things Brian and I have been discussing, to provide better volume and storage for the Industrial Park.
Mr. Burley asked if we have alarms beyond the scada system that would let the operator know.
Mr. Griffith said we do but we had equipment failures so everything went out. When the alarms went off it takes that bit of time to run around the facility, turn everything back on, operate it in manual and get the settings correct. So it was in that meantime, the reservoir was right around seven feet, which is typical. We run 7-12 out there, maybe 10. But that's where we were talking about the reservoir; it just doesn't adequately supply that pressure back over.
Mr. Ball said part of that is friction and travel time and other just other consumption.
Mr. Dzik said you had mentioned equipment, do you want to give a rundown of about what equipment you're ordering, what you're trying to work on over there.
Mr. Griffith said there's relief valves that are designed when you take your elevated tanks out of service they're offline. Those absorb a lot of the transients, a lot of the pressure spikes. As (inaudible) open and close, water moves. Those elevated tanks - they cushion all of that. The equipment I'm going to install goes on fire hydrants that will do the same thing, it'll work in the same capacity. It'll absorb the transients, it'll absorb the hammering, the shock.
Mr. Ball said those will be in the low part of the system. The value of the reservoir, it's open to air and it's a large volume of water so it acts like a capacitor. To unhook the reservoir we have to close a valve so then our system is not opened air anymore. So if we have a water hammer situation and it hits that 16" valve that we have closed, instead of dissipating into the reservoir, it's going to bounce back into the system. That's where the devices that Kenny's going to get would basically discharge water so that the water hammer would exit the fire hydrant.
Mr. Burley said you mentioned scada upgrades a couple of times; what's the thought process there. What's its status?
Mr. Griffith said we've been working with a consultant; we've been talking to Gray Matter. We're looking at all of our PLCs, control all of our wells, high service pumps. A lot of our communication here is still through old phone lines. It's not reliable, we lose telemetry all of the time. When we lose the PLCs or if we change batteries out, we can't back those up. We have one old laptop that runs Windows 95, that's the only way we can put the program back into our PLCs. So when we have these down times it's difficult to get everything back up and

running.
Mr. Burley asked if these PLCs are from the original build twenty years ago.
Mr. Griffith said yes. We're looking at upgrading it with something that's going to be more reliable. We'd like to get radio read from all of our elevated tanks so we can constantly see what's going on with distribution. That was the issue the other night, they did bring the high service pumps back on but they weren't running them fast enough and then our clear well over flowed. Then we had pressure issues with the distribution system. By upgrading this, upgrading the equipment, it's also something that'll make it expandable in the future. This isn't something that we're going to do it now and buy the latest and greatest that's two years old. We want to be able to move forward with it and have more control of the distribution system.
Mr. Ball said as we talk about the water system master plan, we're moving into that period where we're going to be spending, the next few years, a substantial amount of funds at the water plant. The 2016 to present, our distribution system was basically in failure - trying to catch up on that. This is where our master plan shows us moving some efforts to the plant.

Wastewater Plant/Digester

Mr. Ball said as far as our phosphorus wastewater project, our consultants have transitioned. The last two months have been solid; grant writing, EPA, Core of Engineers, funding requests. When I spoke to them last week, they were ready to send that over to us for review and then we can look at getting grant money, revolving loan money. Then they're going to get back into detailed design after that. I have not have a chance to check in, maybe Kenny has, with Jason our Plant Operator to see if the plant has changed operation having the digesters cleaned out.
Mr. Griffith said they're just now getting back to where you can actually operate them. Aside from that, I talked to Jason, we're going to order some bulk chemical and start feeding. We want to feed that for a few months. We want to feed it continuously, see what operational changes we need to make. Beyond that, we're going to have pH; we're going to have to rebalance that. We'll see how that effects the digesters once we start precipitating everything out and sending it over. We're not sure, operationally, what's going to happen.
Mr. Ball said right, everyone we've talked to the bench test that we've completed rarely give us the right answer. We're talking about a full scale of chemical treatment added to the plant, without doing that we're not going to know how (inaudible) for phosphorus. But then the secondary fact is the pH goes out of balance, then the ammonia goes out of balance. We need to get through the hot part of the summer.
Mr. Griffith said we need to develop process control and see exactly what operational changes are going to be needed.
Mr. Ball said then we'll get a feel for how much more sludge we're going to have and we'll get a feel for handling the sludge. I think we're going in the right direction. We're not ahead of the curve but I don't think we're behind at this point, so we're kind of in the middle. Hopefully this will time well to the next subject of stimulus money.

Stimulus Funding

Mr. Ball said what he was going to purpose for the stimulus fund was probably a work meeting. We would probably have Kenny, Keith, myself, Elizabeth, Emily. Take the list of projects that we've been working on, there's other projects out there and look at perhaps prioritizing. Keith has worked really hard on decision metrics. If we look at an aspect of a water system extension or a replacement, looking at a cost benefit to that. Emily should have most of the potential user surveys back. Those will kind of slow down. I was going to purpose sometime in the middle of June, we put a little subcommittee together and have something to present back to this commission for July. We have a pre-final; I don't know that they actually have a final set of rules for Department of Treasury yet. It's hard to grade our projects against a set of rules that we don't have yet. The other thing we're going to discuss, Terry Scott has suggested we talk to Clinton Township and say what if we were to do water lines and they were to repair the roads with their funds. If we're going to do a project that benefits Clinton Township, how much money would they bring to the table? I don't know that we will do any projects in Clinton Township but that is something Terry suggested. If they're receiving grant funds, have them help us make this project more affordable. Lots of ways to look at this. No answers at this point.

Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Dzik said we kind of touched on it a little bit already, do we have anymore we want to talk about on the water plant.

Mr. Griffith said we're still looking at replacing the lime silos, trying to get something accomplished there. The clarifier that's been down for the last year, we do have all of the parts, everything's been delivered to the people that are going to rebuild the drive units. Hopefully we can get that done here in the next couple of months. The recarb basins, we only have one that's operational. Dave's been working on the other side, we've got to get over there, get some valves open. We've got valves that won't work. We'll get some guys from Distribution involved to get those. Hopefully we can get the clarifier back up and running, we can get the second recarb basin back in operation. We don't have any redundancy there now, if something were to happen we're not putting water into distribution. We're focusing on that stuff, we're focusing on the scada - try to get redundancy and reliability back in the facility. We'll be busy with that this year and then at some point Brian and I are going to have to sit and try to figure out how we're getting rid of all of that lime or at least a portion of it. If we can do a quarter, just enough to get us ahead. We're in the situation where they're both full, the one's dry, we can't start going on that one because we need to remove it.

Mr. Ball said he's contacted several contractors and it's they're interested, they don't want to do the EPA paperwork or they're too busy.

Mr. Griffith said last year they had conversations with Fishburn and some other people that were interested so I think, reach back out and see if we can get them involved again.

Mr. Ball said this is something we may end up going out to bid with it but we need to have a

really good set of specs so we're not paying a surcharge. We're working on it.

Mr. Burley asked if any of that is marketable.

Mr. Ball said yes, it's very marketable but the challenge we get into is, this is the type of market where we pay someone to remove it and then they sell the product to a farmer. The challenge is our product may be more valuable if we hire a consultant to do the EPA paperwork and then if we covered that cost we could get a lower price per the disposal. The numbers from the testing, it's an amazing product; it has a lot of value left in it. It doesn't have contaminants in it. It's not accumulating arsenic or any other things that other places do. It still requires the paperwork. If we make the contractor do the EPA paperwork, we basically limit ourselves down to one contractor. So there's all kinds of people that can move product but there's only one local that can do the EPA paperwork and move product and if they're busy they just won't do it. We've reached out to some other contractors and no one's called back.

Water System Rate Study

Mr. Ball said we've had that on hold for several months. Last Wednesday we turned that back on. We've got several things off the docket. Emily and I sat down for a couple of hours and went back through the spreadsheet and made sure she had all of the documents. This week she'll be working on that pretty heavily and then come back with questions. We'll probably get with Kenny and we'll probably do a work session and have Mr. Scott review what we're doing. And we'll add Rick in that work session too. You're taking a lot of lines of revenue and consolidating them into about six lines and it's just making sure everything's going to the right place. So she's going to go back two years and compare how Terry had processed the data to make sure she understands where the money is going. Obviously, like with the wastewater we did find some mistakes in the model that were there for years. They didn't make much difference but we want to make sure that we're handling the Clinton - because some of the Clinton money comes in and goes back out so we just have to make sure that's being handled correctly. The water model is a little simpler than the wastewater model but we're going to keep an eye on that.

Mr. Dzik said I appreciate you having Emily work on it because I think we kind of tend to just dump this on Terry's lap and it'll be nice to give him a finished product that he just has to review.

Mr. Ball said with the wastewater, actually us doing it, I learned a lot and we found some mistakes that probably were original to the model and we improved the model and things have changed. The way the billing system takes money in and puts it out has also changed. So we've got to make sure we're tracking what we're actually doing.

OTHER

Mr. Dzik welcomed Kenny to the commission and congratulated Mr. Orndorf on his retirement.

ADJOURN

- Adjourn Motion

Mr. Dzik made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Burley, second and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

RESULT:	**ADJOURNED ES MOTION [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Richard Dzik, Safety Service Director
SECONDER:	Keith Burley, Alternate Member
AYES:	Ball, Dzik, Burley, Griffith
ABSENT:	Doolittle

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Rick Dzik, Chairman

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Lindsay Hoar, Recording Secretary