

**THE SEWER BOARD MEETING OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA, WAS HELD IN ROOM 100 AT NEW ALBANY CITY HALL ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023 AT 9:15 A.M.**

**PRESENT:** Ed Wilkinson, member and Mayor Gahan, president. Nathan Grimes, member, was not present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** April Dickey, Linda Moeller, Larry Summers, Mike Wallace, Rob Sartell, Claire Johnson, Wes Christmas and Vicki Glotzbach

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Mayor Gahan** called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

**Mr. Wilkinson** moved to approve the December 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, Mayor Gahan second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Grimes who was not present.

**BIDS/CONTRACTS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Wes Christmas, Clark Dietz re: 20-year Master Plan Update**

**Mr. Christmas** stated that he is here today to give the board an update and overview on some of the work that they have completed for the utility over the last 18-24 months. He explained that for the master plan process, they are evaluating the facilities and all of the assets of the utility to project out over a planning period, which is typically a 20-year planning period. He stated that they then evaluate the needs in that planning period so that the utility can prioritize, plan and budget. He gave the board some background context and explained that he, along with many on the board, have been involved in the previous planning period over the last 20 years and the utility has been completing projects that were required/associated with the consent decree. He added that thankfully and happily those projects have all been completed and the utility was able to file and then terminate the consent decree with the EPA, which is a monumental accomplishment. He stated that this all lays the groundwork for the timeliness of this master plan now that all of those mandated projects are complete and the system is operating/functioning as it should to serve the residents of the city. He added that now they are going to look to the next 20 years so that they can stay ahead of the curve, and as they do this, it is time to look ahead for next planning period of the utility and what that may entail. He explained that they broke the master planning process into two phases, the first phase they focused on the wastewater treatment facility and evaluated that whole component of the system, and the second phase they focused on the collection system that includes the piping and lift stations that flow down to the treatment facility. He added that they should all have the documents of the findings and if anyone doesn't, he would be happy to share them but he did want to touch on some of the highlights today.

**Phase 1: Wastewater Treatment Facility**

**Mr. Christmas** reported that it is operating very well and has a current capacity to meet the needs of the users, which is good. He added that there were several recommendations that were typical capital improvements at the facility to maintain and operate it over the course of the next several years. He explained that as they evaluate facilities, they look at capacity, future capacity and future regulatory requirements. He stated that one of the things they are looking at in the next 20-year planning period, and expect to see at some point, is stricter requirements for total nitrogen removal out of wastewater. He added that in previous planning periods, they say stricter regulations come down for the level of phosphorus which required investments on the utilities part to handle these new regulations. He reiterated that they expect to see similar regulations

regarding total nitrogen, although they don't know exactly when. He explained that in order to remove total nitrogen required the expansion of processes and identified that in order to do this process at the current facility, it will require not only an expansion of the processes, but additional tankage which would be an expansion of the footprint of the building. He stated that the space at the site is fairly limited, so a key observation would be that over the next planning period it would be wise to look for opportunities to obtain more space to expand operations. He added that this could be adjacent to the current facility or a completely new site.

## **Phase 2: Collections System**

**Mr. Christmas** reported that the big part of the phase 2 update was to update the hydraulic model. He stated that they use this model to evaluate and assess the performance of the sewer system, how it can convey flows, and identify restrictions/capacity concerns. He added the model was well over 20 years old and the data that was feeding that model, even with efforts to update it over the years, was based on one rain event back in 1999. He stated that they modernized that model and the new model has the capability of looking at a variety of storm events with different durations and different intensities. He explained that as a part of this process, they looked at several types of storms and rather than just do what the consent decree stipulated, they looked at ten-year events to try and stay ahead of the curve to better serve the residents. He reported that throughout this process they identified some capital improvement projects to be prioritized and needed over the next 20 years to maintain service to the customers and get flows down to the treatment plant. He stated that they recommended that projects include capacity expansion in various locations and rehabilitation of some major pipelines as the system continues to age. He added that as flows increase, which they did account for, they need to stay in front of any potential problems that don't exist today but may exist in the future. He stated that the city is in a great spot to be planning and looking ahead rather than reacting, which is how they have been operating for the last 25 years.

**Mayor Gahan** asked where the phosphorus and nitrogen oxide comes from in the system.

**Mr. Christmas** stated that it's all contained within the wastewater. He explained that they see phosphorus in a lot of detergents so it's not nefarious in nature, but there are ongoing efforts to better the treatment processes and they expect to get even more stringent. He added that a lot of this comes from downstream impacts where a lot of these deficiencies in the waters are causing issues of eliminating oxygen in the water.

**Mr. Wilkinson** stated that the other component regarding sterilization is moving away from chlorine and getting that out of the plants.

**Mr. Christmas** stated that it is also something that they don't want people handling, so if they could do the sterilization through something like a UV light it would be safer.

**Mayor Gahan** stated that they have a lot to be proud of with regards to where the utility is today and he is sure they will be discussing this a lot more as they move forward.

## **COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC:**

## **COMMUNICATIONS - CITY OFFICIALS:**

**Mrs. Moeller** requested that the board consider an end-of-year bonus for sewer utility employees of \$500.00. She explained that the non-bargaining employees of the city were awarded that same amount and added that the salary line item has sufficient funds to accommodate this request. She stated that there are four employees in the office for a total of \$2,000.00

**Mr. Wilkinson moved to approve the bonus for the staffing, Mayor Gahan second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Grimes who was not present.**

## **SEWER ADJUSTMENTS:**

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Mr. Wilkinson** reported that the billing for last month was completed just before Christmas which totaled \$1,260,000.00 and is right in the bracket category.

**TABLED ITEMS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**UTILITY REPORT:**

**Mr. Wallace** stated that he is currently working on the October 2023 report and should have it at the next meeting.

**CLAIMS:**

**Mrs. Moeller** presented the following claims for the period of 12/14/23 to 12/27/23 in the amount of \$816,723.11:

GIBSON LAW OFFICE	1,023.76
GIBSON LAW OFFICE	932.39
CITY OF NEW ALBANY	85,200.00
CITY OF NEW ALBANY	142,000.00
CITY OF NEW ALBANY	106,277.30
CITY OF NEW ALBANY	347,000.00

**Total 682,433.45**

INDIANA AMERICAN WATER	739.85
CLARK CO. REMC	133.60
CLARK CO. REMC	184.32
CLARK CO. REMC	136.62
CLARK CO. REMC	142.73
VERIZON WIRELESS	2,260.26
HARRISON CO. REMC	383.91
HARRISON CO. REMC	112.19
HARRISON CO. REMC	51.62
DUKE ENERGY	1,162.18
DUKE ENERGY	1,011.59
DUKE ENERGY	79.81
DUKE ENERGY	1,629.22
DUKE ENERGY	162.68

CARD SERVICES	81.05
CARD SERVICES	16.99
CARD SERVICES	15.99
CARD SERVICES	16.99
CARD SERVICES	207.00
CARD SERVICES	119.80
CHARTER COMM HOLDINGS LLC	724.90
CHARTER COMM HOLDINGS LLC	133.29
CHARTER COMM HOLDINGS LLC	1,443.99
CHARTER COMM HOLDINGS LLC	170.80
CHARTER COMM HOLDINGS LLC	170.80
SILVER CREEK WATER	1,388.40
OFFICE SUPPLY COMPANY, INC	402.15
OFFICE SUPPLY COMPANY, INC	31.73
AMERICAN WATER	1,650.00
DUKE ENERGY	310.95
INFORMATION RESOURCES, INC.	81.22
KIGHTLINGER & GRAY, LLP	2,139.00
LEASE ONE MAGNOLIA, LLC.	112,115.15

**Total 129,410.78**

4,878.88

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**Grand Total 816,723.11**

**Mr. moved to approve the above claims, Mayor Gahan second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Grimes who was not present.**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

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Mayor Gahan, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk