

BOARD OF WORKS
FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2009
8:00 A.M.

Mayor James Fleck – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Lindsey Grossnickle – Present
Walter Crowder – Present
Roger Seymoure – Present

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session with all members present, Mayor Fleck presiding.

MINUTES Upon the motion of Crowder second by Seymoure to approve an overview of the June 12, 2009 meeting minutes as presented, all voted aye.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Crowder to approve an overview of the June 19, 2009 meeting minutes as presented, all voted aye.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Mayor Fleck to approve an overview of the June 26, 2009 meeting minutes as presented, all voted aye.

PAY REQUEST: W.C. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT \$671.88 Jeff Walker explained everything was in order and requested the Board act favorably in the sum of \$671.88.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Mayor Fleck to approve the pay request to the W.C. Soil and Water Conservation District in the sum of \$671.88 as presented, all voted aye.

PAY REQUEST: THE SCHNEIDER CORPORATION – INV. 139472 \$990.00 Jeff Walker explained this was for construction oversight services on the Blue River Interceptor Force Main project. He advised everything was complete except for some site restoration seeding efforts. He explained the record drawings were currently under review by Schneider and they have turned over all operation manuals to us. He advised everything was in order and requested the Board approve the request for \$990.00 from The Schneider Corporation.

Upon the motion of Mayor Fleck second by Seymoure to approve the request for The Schneider Corporation for Invoice 139472 in the amount of \$990.00, all voted aye.

PAY REQUEST: WHITAKER ENGINEERING – INV. 09/06-8 \$352.00 Jeff Walker explained this request was specific to the influent screen process. He advised everything was in order and recommended the Board approve the request in the amount of \$352.00.

Upon the motion of Crowder second by Seymoure to approve Whitaker Engineering Invoice 09/06-8 in the amount of \$352.00 for services rendered, all voted aye.

PAY REQUEST: WHITAKER ENGINEERING – INV. 09/06-9 \$3,000.00 Jeff Walker explained the request was related to the sludge storage process unit and associated billings for sludge removal. He advised it was an ongoing issue that he, Mike Cook and legal counsel have been working on with Whitaker Engineering to continue to move it forward. He recommended the Board pay the Invoice in the sum of \$3,000.00

Upon the motion of Mayor Fleck second by Seymoure to pay the Invoice 09/06-9 in the sum of \$3,000.00, all voted aye.

PAY REQUEST: BURGESS & NIPLÉ – INV. 341450 \$1,165.25 Jeff Walker explained this was services for groundwater monitoring at the former Wayne Reclamation Recycling site. He advised the monitoring was a requirement of EPA. He advised everything was in order and recommended the Board act favorably in the amount of \$1,165.25.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Crowder to approve Invoice 341450 to Burgess & Niple in the amount of \$1,165.25 as presented and recommended by Jeff Walker, all voted aye.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: COESSE WATER & WASTEWATER STUDY

Jeff Walker presented to the Board the request from Bonar to move forward with a feasibility study for the extension of municipal services into Coesse.

Walt Crowder confirmed this was for the scope of work. Jeff advised it was for their scope of work. He explained if it was approved he would sit down with Bonar Group to negotiate fees for the study.

Mayor Fleck stated one of the concerns is always the ongoing costs of these studies which is in part an ongoing cost of doing business. He assured the Board that approving this did not mean the City or the utility would pick up the bill. He stated there were grants and other resources available. He advised it was in a Redevelopment TIF District but we had not in any way approached the County for participation or the EDC. He explained this would be a study to determine what was needed out there.

Walt Crowder confirmed the City was not obligated until the costs were determined and agreed upon. Jeff advised that was correct. Walt questioned due to the nature of this if it would have to go to bid. Jeff advised engineering services never have to be bid out but they could request quotes. He stated that typically was not the most fiscally responsible way of handling it. He advised for a ballpark figure he thought it would be less than \$50,000 for the study. Walt stated as a utility we want to promote it and expand where it was economically feasible but if we would spend \$25,000 for example to do the feasibility study and it is determined that the rates would be so high they could not afford it, we would have just spent \$25,000 for nothing because as a utility we would not do anything. He felt there had to be expertise out there who could give us a ballpark figure, based upon the history, to make a general common sense decision if it would be worth making a \$25,000 - \$50,000 investment for a study that potentially may not even be used. Mayor Fleck advised they were not at that point. He explained step 2 involved who pays and how it was paid. He advised these things are not known until you get involved. He agreed that it would be a bad business decision if it was so expensive to the residents or utility that the payback

would be forever. Walt clarified that the City was not obligated or required, but were trying to evaluate it as a utility to see if it was worth expanding and affordable to those who need the services. He advised he just wanted to be cautious and not spend \$50,000 and then find out we were not going to do anything. He believed there was a lot of common sense and expertise out there that could tell us from their history that it would cost 'x' amount of dollars and figure it just from hypothetical discussion.

Walt advised his concern was not with the engineering group but was a business decision in making that kind of investment. He felt Bonar Group had the expertise to give us some basic budgetary figures without going into a detailed study. He questioned if this would actually be engineering to be ready for construction when they were done. Jeff Walker advised it would not be at all. Walt felt there were ways to work through it and determine it at a cheaper rate to see if it was feasible to make the investment.

Roger Seymoure questioned if the people whose lines were cut had any alternatives. Jeff Walker understood the only alternative at this point would be to put a large holding tank on their property to catch the discharge and then have it pumped. He advised they were going to have to do something regardless. He stated even if we went forward today on this they were still looking at a couple years. Roger questioned what they do during those couple years. He advised he knew that was not our issue but questioned what happens if they are forced to put in the holding tanks and we put the utilities in and at the end the residents say they spent to put in the holding tanks and were not going to hook up. Jeff advised statutorily they have to if it is available but that was a whole other issue. Walt advised the school has had our sewer which was within the distance of the residents that we could have required them to hook up. Mayor Fleck advised he was not sure what the arrangements were so could not speak to that.

Mayor Fleck advised the City has never had this type of challenge.

Roger Seymoure confirmed the request was not really signing a contract with anyone. Mayor Fleck advised that was correct. Walt stated they were already estimating \$25,000 - \$50,000 which was a budgetary cost and questioned how they came up with that. He advised the goal was to determine if it was even feasible to do. He stated if the budgetary costs come back feasible then we go forward but if the budgetary cost come back overwhelming then it could not be done.

Roger Seymoure questioned if their hook up costs would be the same as everyone else. Jeff Walker advised they would not. Roger questioned if the rates would be same. Rosie Coyle explained if they have our water it would be based off their water usage but if it was sewage only it would be a flat rate.

Walt Crowder advised he supported whatever needed to be done as a utility and for the people but in his mind he felt there was a more economical way to determine if this would be feasible to go forward without investing \$25,000 - \$50,000.

Mayor Fleck stated he was not opposed to having someone ballpark it but he was not sure what they would have after that. Walt Crowder felt the focus was to determine whether the rate payers

could afford the additional tap fee and monthly charge and could the City afford as a utility to make the investment. He stated he was trying to be conservative and not spend any more money than they needed to come up with that conclusion. Mayor Fleck advised they could not qualify for grants if they did not have that information. Walt stated he was not ready to apply for a grant but was ready to determine if it was feasible.

Rosie Coyle questioned if this was something the County Redevelopment Commission could help with. Mayor Fleck advised they had not gone to anyone else and only had the request we said we would look into. Rosie advised they originally helped with the water line. Mayor Fleck felt in his opinion there should be participation at that level and should be other participation beyond the County such as the EDC and other governmental units that were stake holders in this.

Roger Seymoure questioned if they could stop part way through the study and say based on what they know this would be the cost. Jeff Walker advised they really could not and had to gather all of the information first then put the pieces together to determine a probable construction cost.

Rosie Coyle confirmed what was being requested today would not cost anything. Jeff Walker advised it would not and he would just move forward with Bonar and negotiate the terms. He advised they had a ballpark figure but if they were not comfortable with it there was no sense in going back to Bonar. Walt Crowder questioned if the ballpark figure was in reference to engineering costs. Jeff advised it would be for the feasibility study.

Roger Seymoure suggested going forward to see what Bonar's proposal would be.

Attorney Grossnickle questioned if Bonar had a streamline process they could give us that based on the number of people and rates it could potentially be 'x' amount. Jeff Walker advised he has asked Bonar that and they were not comfortable with throwing numbers out. He explained they did a year's worth of study for the treatment project and it was 10% off on a \$12 - \$13 million project. Walt Crowder felt the whole focus was to try and determine in a budgetary environment if it was feasible to do. Jeff Walker questioned Walt what number he was shooting for per resident. Walt advised he was not sure but knew the expertise of Bonar could give worst case scenario costs. Attorney Grossnickle questioned Walt if he would accept worst case scenario costs even if they could not guarantee it. Walt advised he was not asking for a guarantee but felt Bonar had the expertise to be close.

Mayor Fleck advised they had no idea what the impact would be particularly if it was funded through the State or Redevelopment. He explained until we would go to the next step and get some accounting and understand the revenue sources we would not know. Roger Seymoure confirmed even if they would give us worst case scenario we still would not know what it would cost the customers or the utility because the funding was unknown. Mayor Fleck advised that was correct.

Roger Seymoure confirmed at this point all they were committing to was Jeff Walker going back to Bonar and requesting what they would charge to do the study and how it would be charged. Mayor Fleck advised that was correct.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Mayor Fleck to move forward with the request for qualifications, all voted aye.

AGREEMENT FOR IMPA TRANSFORMER PURCHASING Larry Whetstone explained Ron Gallmeyer was on the Reengineering Committee. He advised each year they bring up ways to save money for our community. He reported ERMCO again had submitted the low quote for transformers and it was his and Ron's recommendation that the Board sign the agreement with IMPA so they can purchase transformers at a cheaper cost.

Roger Seymoure confirmed this would be cheaper than getting them anywhere else. Larry advised it would.

Walt Crowder questioned if it was a 2 year agreement. Larry advised it was and they were in their second 2 year agreement. Walt questioned what the percentage of savings was. Larry projected it to be 10% - 15%.

Upon the motion of Crowder second by Seymoure to accept Larry Whetstone's recommendation to go into an agreement with IMPA for their purchasing program for transformers for the electric department, all voted aye.

QUOTES FOR CHIPPER Mayor Fleck reported Kelly Cearbaugh had for some time indicated that the present chipper needed replaced; it was inadequate, was costing a lot with ongoing maintenance and problems.

Kelly Cearbaugh advised the current chipper was a 2002 Brush Bandit. He advised he received quotes on two different types of chippers and had demos in as well. He recommended going with the Vermeer chipper. He advised the Vermeer had more safety features than the Brush Bandit.

Roger Seymoure questioned if it would come out of CIP or the budget. Kelly explained it would come out of the CUM Fund.

Walt Crowder questioned if the extended warranty had any value. Kelly advised he discussed it with the mechanic and he did not feel they needed it.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Crowder to approve Kelly Cearbaugh's request for the purchase of the Vermeer in the amount of \$24,640.00, all voted aye.

B & J RENTAL: REQUEST TO BLOCK SIDEWALK Jeff Walker was asked to follow up on getting a drawing. The issue was postponed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT Tom LaRue provided a cost estimate for the water tournament. He stated for 11 teams it would be about \$104.00. Roger Seymoure questioned to avoid this discussion in the future if a meter could be placed. Rosie Coyle questioned if it was just to know how much water was used. Roger advised it was. Chief LaRue stated he provided maximum calculations.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Mike Petersen reported Old Settlers went well for this year. He advised they were working on some ordinances regarding golf carts and vehicle lengths.

PARK DEPARTMENT Mark Green reported they had a softball tournament this weekend that would be bringing in people from all over the state as well as out of state. He thanked the Fire Department for watering the fields. He advised the fireworks went off well and thanked the Police Department for their help in getting traffic out of the park. He reported they were getting ready for football registration. He advised their camps were still going on and had scholarship money available to give out. He reported they had a Jr. Golf tournament next week at Eel River. He advised they continue to water the flowers and trees downtown and removed the wood playground structure from Morsches Park that was out of compliance. He thanked Mike Cook for helping him understand how to do the water testing for IDEM. He reported they were raffling off tickets for a mini 4-wheeler to raise money for the splash pad. He advised the 4-wheeler was donated by a family specifically to raise money for the splash pad.

Discussion took place regarding recycling the water from the splash pad to use on the fields.

WATER DEPARTMENT Mike Dear reported they fixed a 6" main break on South Line Street and worked with a contractor out on 500 East. He stated they have been repairing valve boxes that were damaged during winter.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT Larry Whetstone reported they continue with meter and pole replacements. He advised their project on Van Buren was pretty much complete. He reported they had 44 shut offs for this month which was about average and hooked up 3 new services.

STREET DEPARTMENT Kelly Cearbaugh reported they replaced a catch basin on Jefferson Street and finished with limb pickup for this week.

CURB CUT REQUEST – 1040 W. DEPOY DRIVE Kelly Cearbaugh reported Herschel Aumsbaugh submitted a curb cut permit for 1040 W. Depoy Drive. He explained they sold off the Schumacher Homes and Herschel had the home to the east and would like to put a drive into his facility. He advised he looked at it and Mike Dear checked out the water and everything seemed to be in order. He recommended approve the curb cut request.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Mayor Fleck to approve the requested curb cut on Depoy Drive by Herschel Aumsbaugh.

Walt Crowder questioned in being consistent with parking lots he confirmed it would be in compliance. Jeff Walker advised it went through David Sewell's office and the property had enough parking spaces for its use.

Upon the motion, all voted aye.

COMMUNICATIONS/IS DEPARTMENT Terry Wherry reported they installed a gas generator at the north water tower so there were no issues with utilities going down during extended power outages.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT Mike Cook reported Shambaugh has been onsite working on the fine screen and grit system. He thanked the Kelly and the Street Department for bringing a truck out to clean out some of the pits.

Roger Seymoure questioned if the mixers and hoists were working fine. Mike advised they did not have any sludge to mix yet but they do start them up once a week.

Walt Crowder questioned if they were on the final clean up of the open events they had. Mike advised the screen was ready to go and was just waiting on the blessing from Siemens. He stated the only thing he could not speak for was the grit system since it had been down for so long. He advised it was cleaned out and ready for operation. Walt questioned if they would be close to working on the open house. Mike felt they could do it later this year.

Roger questioned if anyone had stepped up to help pay for the sludge. Jeff advised he referenced that early with what he, Attorney McNagny and Cecil were working on.

OUTSIDE OPERATIONS Jeff Walker reported he contacted SES Environmental to follow up on the clean-up of the former substation site on South Chauncey Street. He advised it was to begin at the end of this month and should take 30-45 days to complete. He reported the title work was complete on the easements for the interceptor and Eel River Trail projects. He advised they met with INDOT on the SR 205 project and it appeared to be on track. He reported he has met with 7 consulting firms who have shown interest in the project.

Walt Crowder questioned how things were going with the safety programs. Jeff reported he and Rosie met with a representative with Cincinnati Insurance and continue to move forward with it.

STREET CLOSING REQUEST – W.C. ARTS FESTIVAL Rosie Coyle advised she had a street closing request for the arts festival scheduled for September 12. She reported all of the department heads signed off on it.

Walt Crowder clarified when they say from Chauncey Street from Van Buren south it did not include the intersection. He explained at the last 3 on 3 basketball tournament that intersection got closed and caused a lot of people to have to back up and turn around.

Upon the motion of Mayor Fleck second by Seymoure to approve the street closing request for the arts festival with no closing of intersections, all voted aye.

STREET CLOSING REQUEST – 4-H FAIR Rosie Coyle presented a street closing request for August 17 for the 4-H parade.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Crowder to approve the street closing for the 4-H parade on August 17 as presented, all voted aye.

BILLS Mayor Fleck questioned if they were starting to see a reduction in electric costs. Rosie advised she had not gotten the IMPA bill yet.

Upon the motion of Mayor Fleck second by Crowder to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$739,689.25, all voted aye.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor James Fleck

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle