

Vienna Utility Board
210 60th Street, Vienna, WV 26105
Regular Utility Board Session
Meeting location City of Vienna Council Chambers
609 29th Street, Vienna, WV 26105

January 21, 2022

Public Forum: Brenda Powell – 1409 31st Street

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following present:

Randall Rapp, John Barr, Steve Eaton, Kim Williams, Joseph Thorpe. Absent, Attorney Russ Skogstad

Also, present: Craig Metz Public Works Director, Lorrie Bond Stormwater Coordinator / Program Administrator, Lise Sibicky, and Mike Davis from Burgess & Niple.

Minutes from the November 19, 2021, Regular VUB Board Meeting were approved as presented and posted.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Water Quality Testing –** Per Craig Metz, results from the last 2 months have been good. Still in good shape, it is about time for a Carbon change on a few of the filters so that will be happening in the next month or so. Kim Williams had a question regarding the latest test. Upon looking at past few months test results, was concerned why we had a considerable spike on these, most recent results. It looks as though we are way over the reporting limits and wanted an explanation for why this is. Per Craig Metz, he advised that the limits are not over. What you are looking at is a little higher detection limit, the reporting limit, which is set by the EPA is, 70 ppb. Our limits are 700% lower than the reporting limit. Williams asked when you have a reporting limit of 0.01 then the sample says is it 0.11, she is asking why this is a dramatic difference, this doesn't just seem like a slight increase. She asked if these levels would change once the Carbon is replaced, Craig advised yes, it is a filter system, so that is why we change the Carbon out and replace it with new. Williams just wanted to make sure that the spike we are seeing is due to the Carbon needing to be replaced. Chairman Rapp address Williams and stated that he was not sure if anyone has taken the time to explain how these sample results are presented. Rapp did a quick review for William's benefit. Rapp explained when you review these reports that are given to us, the ones we are most concerned with are the Lag. The Lead are the ones that come into the system and go through the Carbon filters, the Lag is what is actually going out into the community. So, when you look at the reports, the Lag results as they have exited the system are typically less than 0.01, so the one you are referring to is .011 not 0.10 so it is not a significant difference it is exceedingly small and as Craig pointed out 70 ppb is the standard. 0.01 ppb, we are one-seventh of the reporting limit is. From a water quality standard our water we are supplying to our customers is excellent. Kim added she appreciated the explanation between the Lead and the Lag, and she is confident after the Carbon is changed, we will not see this spike. Per Rapp, Craig and I look at these results as soon as we receive them to make sure we are within limits, which is the whole reason for these filters, and we want to make sure the water quality is where it needs to be. There were no more questions on this.
- B. ARP Discussion -** I have asked for this to stay on agenda under unfinished business until there is some resolution as to what is going to happen. City Council has allocated the approximate amount of \$350,000 for the River Road project, we also got funding from the County to help make up the difference, so that project is now funded, so once all engineering

plans and reports are all in we will get started on putting that River Road project into place. But, in my conversations with the rest of the council members, its infrastructure based on where that money is going to be spent. At last City Council meeting Burgess & Niple came in and did an exceptionally good presentation on the projects we have been talking about over the years, like the sewer upgrade to Parkersburg, other issues as well like problems around 16th Street, and some of the other projects. So, at some point, Rapp is not sure what is going to trigger it, but we need to go and say these are the projects we want to do next or is council going to say here is the rest of the money and from that point we will have to chose which projects we can do with that amount of money. Somebody must make the first move, because we cannot do these projects without that funding. Our only other options would be a rate increase or selling Bonds. One Council member is under the inclination that we simply put all projects together and complete them all at once, which would be around \$20 to \$30 Million worth of projects. So, we have been reaching out to the various bond councils to figure out what the retainment would be on these kinds of numbers because it would have to be huge. Craig and I have both told you every one of these projects we have is needed and has been needed for a long time, but it is simply the funding issue is why we cannot do it all. There are other options out there, there are some items floating around in Congress, so we submitted the sewer line upgrade to Parkersburg and the Pond Run Dredging project to them, in addition to the Brownsfield Grant for the remediation to Johns Manville, so we can continue to work on that sight and get it ready for future development. Those are just the three preliminary ones, I do not know what will happen, Congressman McKinley is extremely interested in Wood County so hopefully we will get a little priority help with that. The Parkersburg trunk line project is approximately \$2.9 million, even with all the other projects Burgess & Niple have been working on for us, we could literally drop \$20 million dollars on them and still have projects left out that still need completed. At some point soon we are going to have to be putting a little more focus on this. Williams asked if there was anyway to start a few of these projects now since we do have a little bit of money, can we start the preliminary reports, just wondering what our next step is. Per Craig, he asked Williams which projects she would want preliminary reports to be started on? Williams mentioned she understood we wanted to start with the trunk line to Parkersburg, but couldn't we do preliminary reports on everything in sewer including 12th Street up to 17th Street. Metz advised most of these preliminary reports have already been done, the costs estimates have been done, so the next step would be the design work and putting it out to bid, then we could see what the numbers would be. The most important thing is trying to figure out where we are going to get the money from. Williams said that is what she was referring to. She asked if we were to get more formal, get the design work and bidding information to see what costs would be and if it comes back way to expensive, we would be under no obligation to move forward until the other components fall into place regarding money correct? Metz said that was correct. Metz added we can have Burgess & Niple do the design work, but it does not have to be accepted. We can wait and bid it out later or just not do the project, which has happened in the past. Metz advised though, once we do bid out a project you have to have the funding source in place. No contractor is going to come down, bid on the project and be ok with having to start in a year and ½ later. The prices are based off current supply chain costs and man hour costs at the time of bid. So, we must have some sort of funding in place. Rapp added bids are guaranteed for a very short period of time, and we can not do a rate increase in a short amount of time either. These steps take time, they are not quick. We will keep coming back to this so we can figure out a plan to pick which of these projects we want done and get the needed money if we must. Rapp added that during a meeting he had this week, the ARP money now includes Stormwater projects. Also, there is Senate Bill 132 coming up, if it passes it will make cities determine whether they are going to keep their B&O taxes or their \$.1 sales tax. City of Vienna operates on Approx.\$11 million budget a year, the B&O tax the city collects annually is \$2.8 million. So, if this bill passes and we must chose which to remove it is severely going to cripple our city. Randy added that this scares him to death he does not want to see what will happen if this bill passes. Metz added that it seems every 12 years we go through this, and we have projects that need completed. He has laid out which projects are most important right now and that need done.

- C. **5 – Year Plan** – The 5 – year plan discussion was in with the ARP discussion so nothing further on this at this time.
- D. **4705 8th Avenue Property – Discussion** – Mr. Stauffer is in attendance with us again today. Rapp asked Mr. Stauffer what he would like us to do? Mr. Stauffer said that we did propose the purchase of the property, do the right thing which is ever most cost-effective plan to fix this issue is his request. Per Rapp, we have done extensive engineering and studies in that whole area. Mr. Stauffer asked if anyone looked into the depth of the sewer line, we discussed that in a previous meeting about other lines coming out of the homes along that stretch of road, and if we did do an upgrade would it be interfering? Metz added, we did do preliminary study before, we have not run a camera down to get an exact depth, but we did complete a preliminary design of the culvert system that runs from Mr. Stauffer's house to the channel that runs through there. The size pipe they have designed would fit but would not be able to go any larger than that. And it is exceedingly difficult to tell the exact depth of each service lateral unless you pick them up, our camera will give you within ½ a foot. Rapp asked if the lines are running with the street, meaning down the street or does it cross somewhere and tie in? Per Metz, it runs at a 90-degree angle and ties in at various locations. Some of it goes back to a channel, runs under the golf course, under grand central then back to River Road back to the plant. Some of it goes back to 7th Avenue, down 46th Street and back up that way. There is a split right at the hill side. Metz, said regarding this house, up is all about which I am concerned. The six or however many houses that are there run back to 51st Street. Rapp stated that when we had this study done the actual water runoff is lower than the drainage ditch that goes back up toward the Country Club and water will not flow uphill. It is draining downhill, we either must pump it up or do something, because this is not going to really help this situation. We can retain it where it will perk slowly, but there is a curb at the end of his driveway, it is a standard curb like we put on any other home 2 – 3 inches tall. You cannot put a concrete block across the end of the driveway, which would eliminate the driveway. We did raise the driveway curb a bit, but he still has this issue when we have very heavy rainfall events. Mr. Stauffer has not had any issues the last few months due to him deploying sandbags which is his only defense from the water. He also did place a pipe to divert water to the back of his house but there is no way he could put a bigger size pipe in. Williams mentioned that Metz had explained to us before that putting in a larger size line will only cause more issues for people downstream, Williams wondered if we had investigated this yet. No, we have not. Metz is a firm believer in retention systems, firstly because it replenishes our ground water and it alleviates any extra water into that stream, that would cause me problems downstream. Williams asked Metz if his recommendation is to purchase the property, tear it down and put in a retention system. Metz advised yes. Williams asked if we are no longer going to look at the other options. Metz stated that the prices are so close right now, and if we are going to spend the money to do this, he would much rather have the retention system put in to eliminate any additional water in the stream. Rapp asked what Mr. Stauffer's schedule was like for next few weeks, he said he is free, Rapp said we will get with him, schedule a time to meet and discuss what we can come up with. Mr. Stauffer agreed. Joe Thorpe asked if this would set a precedence in the city to buy other homes that are having this type of situation. Rapp added everything we do these days sets a precedence and it depends on the circumstances, and that is where we are. Metz added that we are not buying a house to help one individual we are buying a structure which is over a piece of land, and we will use that land to improve that whole area. That is the important part to focus on. We can purchase this land and alleviate flooding issues from 9th Avenue to 8th Avenue and replenish groundwater at the same time. So, looking at it this way I am not buying that home to eliminate just Mr. Stauffer's flooding issue I am doing it to help with flooding issues of this entire area. No further questions.
- E. **Burgess & Niple – River Road Water Main Discussion** – Per Metz, Lise Sibicky is still working on the design work, she has been waiting on the CSX permit for the boring we did receive that, Lorrie has the copy that needs to be signed after the meeting, we are also waiting on P.O. and payment for the permit fee of \$3,700. Once all is received it will be processed and she will continue with design work and get it out to bid. CSX has already

approved the drawing they have presented so we are just waiting on a few small pieces to be completed. So, this project is moving right along.

F. Burgess & Niple – Water & Wastewater System Improvement Projects – Per Metz, it is the same thing we have talked about for 3 meetings, you all need to decide what you want to do, do we want to go through bonding council get all bonding to get as many projects done as we can, or do you want me to pick the most important or 2 most important from each water & wastewater sector. Per Rapp, just for information, we have reached out to the Bond council, and they have started doing the preliminary numbers to find out what the repayment schedule would be like. Some of these bonds can be done for 20 years, some can be longer. If we do a general revenue bond, which is how in the past we built the police department and the city building. How this works is it goes out to every citizen in Vienna and there is a levy put on the citizens document, that this is only for the length of time it takes to pay back the note. We are looking into this option, this would require a vote, so it would have to be put on a ballot have a special election and the citizens would vote on it. The other way is through the IJDC, the infrastructure council. Then there is a tremendous amount of money coming down from the federal government for these types of programs and we are working on this best we can at every avenue we can. Hopefully by next meeting we can have some numbers, I know council is extremely interested in that part of the puzzle. The problem with these federal grants is that you cannot start any projects until you have that money, if you do start anything without having the funds in hand, you will not be reimbursed. So, these are the options we are pursuing. Metz added you all have the information and the numbers on what each project will cost, please look them over and let us know how much money you are wanting to borrow, and we go from there.

G. Burgess & Niple – Dredging of Pond Run and Dry Ponds – Per Metz, this is same situation as where with are with other projects, you know what the project is and what the costs are going to be, we are at the point of how we are going to get the money to do it. Randy did ask Congressman McKinley for the money for this project we will have to wait and see if it comes into play, if it does not, we will have to determine where we are going to get the \$1 million to straighten up Pond Run, dredge it and do work on Dry Dams. Metz advised he did not not have in his budget. Rapp asked if we have received an answer back yet from the Soil Conservation Service about how much funds into which we can tap. Per Metz, last time I check it was approx. \$100,000. Hopefully McKinley will be able to help us in the funding of this project, it does help control the flow and flooding issues in the city which we all know is an issue. So, we will wait and see. Mike Davis asked if we wanted to get the design study ready so we have this piece in place in case we can be shovel ready if this money does come available. What you do not want is to have everything ready and then must wait. Rapp asked, when we go out to bid on this, whoever the contractors are that will be performing this work will they work to the specifications you have laid out. Mr. Mike Davis, it is going to go back to its original levels so whoever gets the bid for this project will work off the plan layouts and specifications that we have made. Rapp asked if we already have these numbers and information in place. Metz advised yes; we do. Rapp asked if this waste being removed will be considered hazardous, Metz advised no, it is just silt.

New Business:

A. Burgess & Niple – Composition of Review Committee for Completing the Stormwater Master Plan. – Per Mike Davis, what this is, is a focus group not really a committee. We have today just pointed out several trouble areas and those areas are our focus, but there are other areas around town that were not mentioned. So, someone needs to look at all these areas together and say what are we trying to do. We have been in the same spot since July, our next step is to have a meeting so we can present some of the issues and to get people's feedback. There is no right or wrong answers we just need to know where to focus on. So, we just want everyone to have a voice. That was the whole point of me bringing this to the board so we can move forward to next step which is to hold a meeting. Rapp said to Mike Davis he is right, he is like Craig, and you guys can't get to work without being given the direction. We have

had you look at all these areas in town, did smoke testing among survey's etc. But it comes back to money again, these projects are going to be expensive. Some parts of town are so flat there is no runoff, some have a tremendous amount of run off. So, we do need to help you with this. Mike Davis advised there are forty-one spots through town we found that have issues, everyone would pick a different area to fix so a focus group would help. So that will be the next step having a focus group saying we think these are the things that need to be done, we would look at them and decide which would be the highest priorities out of those. Metz asked Mike Davis, on the stormwater survey out of 11,000 we had how many complete the survey? Mike advised it was approx. 115 people, 1%, replied to our questionnaire. Rapp said he would make it easy and start with the 28th Street flooding project, he asked Mike for whatever estimate he has for the Task Order on this so we could look at getting started. Mike Davis agreed.

B. Burgess & Niple – Approval of Task Order 2021-04 – 45th Place Water Main Replacement for Final Design, Bidding and Construction Phase Services–

Rapp explained that during City Council's last meeting, they passed a resolution that said they wanted us to engage Burgess & Niple to do a Task Order to tell us what it will cost to fix 45th Place. 45th Place is a housing development off Grand Central Avenue at 45th Street. When it was originally constructed there were water lines installed that will not withstand the water pressure that Vienna has, so this has caused several leaks. City Council has agreed that this is the direction they want to go to help this area. It is a 3-step process, the first step is to authorize Burgess & Niple to do a Task Order which turns them loose to do the initial work to find out the directions and improvements on that water line. We are authorizing them to go to work, once that work is done, they will come back to us and advise how much money it is going to cost to complete the initial phasing of this project. Once we receive it back and it tell us, Task Order 2021 – 04 is going to cost, and for sake of this discussion we will just say \$10,000, we then must vote to pass the task order to pay the "\$10,000" to say ok, we know the cost, now let us do the project. Then we take that authorization and go to the next step which is the design. The design will show us how the actual water line will be installed, what it takes to get it done. There will be a cost for this step as well. The last step will be to monitor the project as it is being built to make everything is being done to standard. City Council authorized this to be done, payment of these will come out of the ARP Fund, due to council thinking this is important enough to get it done. As you know with all the studies we have done, there are other areas in town that have as critical need if not more than some of these other projects, but Council does feel that 45th Place needs to be made a priority. Which is fine we just have to authorize / approve the task order for Burgess & Niple to start the process. Metz added, Rapp mentioned the three phases of this process, we have already completed the first phase, this will be the second phase of everything going out to bid. The first task order was done under a general task order, the three steps is correct, so this will be the second phase. And to clarify the amount of this task order will be in the amount of \$32,100, and this is coming out of ARP Fund money, correct? Our water fund is getting low just making sure that will be where funding is coming from. Rapp confirmed that with council approving this project it will come out of the ARP Fund money. So, to clarify what this task order will cover is to give them the grant money to go ahead and get final design, bidding and construction phase going and the next time we come back they will have final cost numbers on what the project will cost in total. Because it is a water project it does have to be approved by the Utility Board, but the funding will not come out of the Utility Board's budget it will come out of the ARP money. Rapp entertained a motion for Task Order No. 2021 – 04 – Final Design, Bidding and Construction Phase Services for 45th Place Water Main Improvements.

Motion and Vote

Chairman Rapp called for motion of approval of Task Order 2021 – 04 – Final Design, Bidding and Construction Phase Services for 45th Place Water Line Replacement. Motioned carried by Steve Eaton was seconded by Joe Thorpe. Vote carried in support unanimous 5-0.

Manager's Report: The meter upgrade to Central Boaz has been completed, we did run a couple months' worth of tests on it. It is running accurate with the old meters; flow rates are good. It is much easier to access. So, this is all running well. We did have an issue with the month of December, this was the first significant issue we have had with our meters, it actually had nothing to do with the meters themselves, the radio reads that are to go to the towers, there are data collectors that are to bounce back to the city building through a dish network. The city went through a computer upgrade here and wiped out my section of the dish network, so IT tech here and my IT assistant at the Utility Board, Tommy Bunner, worked a lot of hours to get it back up and running. It is back up and running. Health wise Public Works is doing well now, there for a few weeks for had about twelve people out, most of office staff and some crew members, but we got through that and have everyone back. Water line breaks are averaging 1 a day, whether it be a main break or service line break, nothing huge just dealing with a lot of these right now. Sewer back ups we have had several the last few days, this has to do with the snow melt, this snow melt causes a lot of ground water and groundwater runs to the sewers. We had to deal with one the other today at 41st and 42nd Streets this line ran between some houses, it was very tight area to work, and we had to dig down almost seven feet by hand, due to not having enough room to get our equipment in to dig. Our guys worked extremely hard today getting that repaired. Rapp wanted to add that it costs a lot of money to purchase the equipment that we have, but the camera system that can get in and find that break or collapse absolutely takes out hours or days of trying to find that break or collapse in the line. I have been able to watch the guys work on this, they are right up against this house digging and making the repairs and it is extremely cold out there. We have a great crew, and those cameras were dead on. Excellent job to the guys. On the hydrant project, we have installed eight of the ten, I am waiting on the last two because they are around the mall, did not want to do at Christmas time nor during any harsh weather time. So, we are going to do when it starts to warm up and it will be a nighttime job. Rapp wanted to add one more comment, I am sure how long it has been, but we had to go to Central Boaz due to a billing issue, and according to the Public Service Commission they are down to their last payment, so when the last payment is made, we will be done with this and they will be all caught up.

Board Comments: Kim Williams just wanted to add what an excellent job our crews did on snow removal, our guys do an outstanding job. Thank you. Rapp also added that this will be our last Utility Board Meeting held here at City Council chambers, the next meeting will be back at the Utility Board. The only reason we moved it down here to Council Chambers was because of the camera system we have found a way around that and will now go back to having the Utility Board meetings at 210 60th Street location.

Meeting adjourned at 2:36 PM.

Next regular meeting – Friday February 18, 2022 @ 1:00 PM @ Vienna Utility Board located at 210 60th Street Vienna, WV 26105.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Bond