

# Village of Rochester

## Water and Sewer Committee

Minutes of February 28, 2018 Meeting  
Approved at March 14, 2018 meeting

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order in the Village Boards and Commissions Room at 7 pm. Those present included Doug Zobrist, Maribeth Eandi, Harry Hendrickson, Shane Summers, Todd Folder, Jarrod Borell, Kevin Kuhn, Tom Walker, Janice Kidd, Janet Davis, Jerry Robertson, & Gael Kent. Joe Suerdieck joined the meeting for the discussion of the URWC water proposal near the meeting end.

**Minutes:** An Eandi/Hendrickson motion carried to approve 1/24/18 minutes as presented and revised .

**Public forum:** The committee responded to questions and listened to recommendations from all the guests on the URWC water proposal for about 45 minutes. Topics included:

- Need for better public information on the URWC water proposal including posting information on the Village website.
- Consider putting a referendum on the fall election for water system improvements.
- The current Village water bond and water rates and how savings from less expensive purchased water would be used by the Village.
- The use of the current \$8.50 cap fees and plans for additional water system improvements.
- Differences in the Illiopolis and Buckhart bottom well fields.
- The potential for a change in water quality with a new source of water like Chatham.
- The need for the Village to get consultants to technically evaluate the proposal.
- The potential cost for a Village buyout of its current CWLP contract.
- The overpriced CWLP water and how to deal with it.
- The potential for greatly increased CWLP water cost in the future.
- The governance of the URWC and the value of having the village on the URWC board.

**Superintendent's report:** Todd Folder provided a Public Works written report (attached) providing detailed information on the following:

- In-house Badger Meter training for the full staff. Rochester needs to update meter reading software and Todd will have information for the upcoming budget meetings.
- Reinstalled the water meter for Public House 29 and estimated water consumption for the billing when it was out of service. Drafted and sent letter to explain billing.
- Flushed and unsuccessfully resampled bacteria in Morningside Height water main using a hydrant. No homes are connected yet, and PW will sample from a tap next time since it is difficult to get a negative coliform test using a fire hydrant.
- Put the water tower back in service after draining, refilling, and sampling for bacteria. About 300,000 gallons (@\$6.43/K about \$1930) wasted and is reflected in the water efficiency report.
- All public works field staff participated in the IL Rural Water Association (IRWA) conference in Effingham for in-service education. The three unlicensed staff participated in training in anticipation of taking an exam for their Class D water operator's license.
- Public works has started in the older part of the Village a VALVE IDENTIFICATION program that will lead to cleaning and exercising water valves throughout the Village. Jarrod is taking the lead on this documentation.

- Met with Village engineer Kevin Kuhn regarding infrastructure needs and priorities & Coe Commons water & sewer plans.
- Water Accountability for January=17.7% (or loss of 1.3 million gals. @ \$6.43/K=\$8359). With meter replacement, repairs of broken mains and water tank operation we expect this will decline.
- PW has received a replacement plug valve for the main pump station to eliminate a confined space entry issue at that site. It will be installed soon.
- The SE pump station fencing and lighting is complete and gravel will be installed when weather permits.
- Britton Electronics will provide a quote on a PLC replacement at the North Pump Station and will install remote-read generator fuel gauges at the north & south lift stations.
- The North Pump Station needs to be evaluated for capacity issues when the SE pump station starts receiving wastewater.
- The wastewater lagoons are dewatered.
- Goals for next month: Morningside Heights operating permit & smooth manual tank operation.
- Goal for the year: deal with sewer slide, start first phase of Oak Hills water main replacement, & Morningside Heights service connections complete.

**Legionella:** Shane Summers reported on an IRWA session on Legionella conducted by IEPA PWS Manager Dave McMillan. Findings: no Illinois labs that test for it; nursing homes or assisted living homes are key concerns; exposure via lungs in showers; & ASHRAE 188 provides the best guidance. Shane will meet with the manager of Wyndcrest to provide proactive guidance and support.

**Lead in drinking water:** Shane contacted the Rochester Schools to provide assistance or information if needed on lead sampling as required by state law following the Flint, MI incident. School superintendent Bertrand said Brad Alewelt is in charge of this and they had already sent the required 106 water samples for testing, and are now awaiting results. We are not aware of any lead pipes in Rochester.

**GIS:** Jarred Borell reported on the potential for the Village getting its own geographic information system. He saw a demonstration of DIAMOND MAPS at IRWA and then checked with Effingham and Williamsville PW employees who use them. This service costs \$540/year, but you also need a GPS locating device if you want to put in your own points. Williamsville hired IRWA to put in their points for \$7000. Jarred believes we can do it as part of our ongoing operations. After discussing with Williamsville and DIAMONDMAPS, Jarred found an EOS100 GPS @ \$2-3000 as having adequate accuracy for our use. We will discuss this more in budget hearings.

**Village Engineers Report:** Kevin Kuhn will finalize a white paper of facts on the potential switch of water source. He too was at the IRWA meeting. Kuhn & Trello has a GIS system and GPS equipment.

**EJ/URWC Water Proposal Discussion:**

IEPA information: Harry obtained, showed the printouts of, and placed in the Rochester Library at least 10 years of water quality data obtained from IEPA: Illiopolis Public Water Supply (PWS)—previously Borden & Formosa Chemical Co.—inorganic chemicals (IOC), volatile organic chemicals(VOC), and synthetic organic chemicals (SOC). No SOCs or VOCs, and IOCs show high manganese and hardness which are greatly reduced with their lime softener system. Also, Illiopolis is not currently considered to be “under the influence” of surface water due to no bacteria in untreated well water.

IEPA Ambient Sangamon River monitoring (possible water source if there is induced flow into the wells with certain hydrologic conditions): typical river water with variable parameters. Some samples show nitrate above the 10 ppm N/NO3 drinking water standard.

Rick Cobb and Bill Buscher of the IEPA Groundwater Section agreed to use groundwater modeling methods to produce another capture zone map for the Illiopolis wells using the greater pumping rates envisioned by URWC.

Review 2/26/18 meeting: Joe personally placed labels on the 1500 postcard invitations mailed to Rochester water customers. About 125 people were present, many due to an unsigned flyer in the Grove Park area which contained false information and was illegally placed in mailboxes. The meeting was covered by both the *Rochester Times* and *Springfield Journal Register*. Many misconceptions about the proposed new water source were exposed and hopefully removed. Most were wary of the mistakes made by the South Sangamon Water District. Many at the meeting felt a referendum should be conducted, but they were unaware of the need for a decision long before the fall 2018 election. Janet Davis suggested a questionnaire such as the one by UI Extension as part of the Village Long Range Plan, and it was stated many responded on that survey of the need for lower Village water costs. Joe noted one person used profane language, and one retired minister blessed the board for trying to reduce water rates. CWLP Water Manager Ted Meckes was present but asked not to be introduced.

Progress on contingency factors:

At the last meeting the following contingency issues were identified by this committee. These need to be satisfied prior to signing on with the United Regional Water Coop. Progress is reported in parentheses:

1. Guarantee water quality as high as, and as soft as CWLP water (This can be written into the URWC contract with specific parameters such as for hardness, as well as standards adopted by the Illinois Pollution Control Board.)
2. Satisfy CWLP contractual obligations (A meeting will be held soon with attorneys present and the Village anticipates getting out of the current contract without any payments before the URWC plant is scheduled for completion in late 2020. An emergency interconnect would still be there.)
3. Develop process for community involvement and sound information (The 2/26/18 meeting provided a great deal of information, discussion, and news coverage, but may not have convinced everyone of the facts. Village engineer Kevin Kuhn has drafted and will soon post a fact sheet. We will post more information on our Village website. Harry will send Gael Kent minutes of Water & Sewer meetings.)
4. Guarantee water price from URWC (This will be in the contract and the only adjustments will be by the URWC board consisting of members appointed by each municipal member and one member from EJ Water.)
5. Assure USDA funding of URWC loans and or grants (We understand the loan funding has been approved with the federal budget but EJ is waiting on the possibility of additional grant funding from USDA Rural Development.)
6. Secure groundwater modeling of the aquifer to determine recharge area. (ISWS would have done this in April for \$3000 without field work or \$30,000 with field work. IEPA agreed to do it for free and was provided with all the data from ISWS.)
7. Secure expert opinion on the extent of and the water quality effect of induced flow from the Sangamon River with its suspected high nitrate levels. (IEPA provided 10 years of ambient river water quality information and it will be reviewed in conjunction with the capture zone map and possible “under the influence” determination.)
8. Audit CWLP water finances as provided for in our CWLP contract. (Following review by Village Treasurer and CPA Jim Theis, Rochester and Williamsville will likely proceed with this following meeting in #2 above.)

**Next meeting:** tentatively 6 pm, March 14.

**Adjourned:** 9:30 pm

Faithfully recorded by Harry Hendrickson, Chairman, Rochester Water and Sewer Committee