

MINUTES
October 30, 2012
Public Utilities Committee
City of Batavia

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. Minutes are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Committee/City Council, and to include some description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. Any references to discussion and/or statements are only to provide greater clarity to the public and they may not reference all, some, or any of an individual speaker's comments.

Chairman Frydendall called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Aldermen Brown, Clark, Frydendall, Jungels, O'Brien, Volk, and Wolff
Also Present: Gary Holm, Public Works Director; William McGrath, City Administrator; Byron Ritchason, WWTP Superintendent; Mayor Schielke (7:37 p.m.), and Connie Rizo, Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes for October 16, 2012

Motion: To approve the 10/16/12 Public Utilities Committee meeting minutes.
Maker: Volk
Second: Wolff
Voice vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, Motion Carried.

3. Presentation: Preliminary Analysis of Wastewater Treatment Facility (Trotter Associates)

Gary Holm stated that Task Order #1 was to update the wastewater treatment plant flow and loading data that had been in the original master plan, since the data was over four years old. Holm stated that data has been updated and it directly correlates to what the designs would need to be going forward. Holm added that the other major item in Task Order #1 was the physical inspection of the plant to update maintenance issues.

Scott Trotter introduced Jillian Goodlove as one of the junior engineers from Trotter and Associates working on the project. Trotter mentioned Goodlove has her Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois.

Trotter provided a presentation of the existing wastewater treatment facility and information about Task Order #1 (refer to presentation).

Trotter's presentation included:

- Plant history
- Recent history
- Task Order evaluation of existing facility of WWTF
- Evaluation of loading and performance
- Current influent and effluent wastewater parameters
- Influent analysis summary
- Effluent data summary
- Biological process
- Plant structures and aesthetic concerns
- Odor control needs
- Dry weather flow/excess flow
- Information on clarifiers and headworks
- Evaluation of service life
- Performance and deficiencies
- Review of regulatory compliance
- Sludge stabilization and disposal
- Cost estimates and recommendations
- Next steps for Batavia's WWTF rehabilitation upgrade
- Task Order #2
- Task Order #3

Trotter provided a historical data comparison on influent flow, BOD, and TSS. Ald. Volk inquired what occurred in March 2010 related to the test results. Trotter replied that some of the reason may be that sampling lines that were left in the wastewater and had a little more strength to it than the actual flow was. Trotter stated the lab testing was accurate. Trotter commented that if today's data would be what decisions are based on there would be no reason for the City of Batavia's WWTF to be on critical review.

Holm stated there are two scenarios that could come into play: 1) potential future development or redevelopment of existing properties along with new regulatory issues that could influence the need for WWTF expansion or 2) Areas of the existing WWTF that require immediate attention due to maintenance concerns that should be dealt with in the context of an overall future expansion.

Ald. Wolff inquired if there was a point where it would be feasible to say the City of Batavia would not continue with this WWTF and would let Fox Metro take over that amount of the wastewater treatment. Holm did not know if that suggestion had ever been explored. Trotter stated that the southwest area has limited capacity in the interceptor sewers in order to take what Batavia is considering for Mooseheart, so the density needed to be dropped on that piece of property to absorb the remaining capacity. Trotter added that on the east side of town there are infiltration and inflow

issues on Aurora's interceptor sewers and they are battling the CSO requirements with the IEPA at the present time, so there is not additional capacity in the existing systems between the City of Batavia and Fox Metro's plant. Byron Ritchason opined that Fox Metro would require every one of Batavia's combined sewers to be separated.

Ald. Wolff inquired if a plant could be built on Mooseheart that could handle this amount of wastewater treatment. Holm stated that previously had been discussed. Trotter stated that that alternative was evaluated in 2008. Trotter commented if the Mooseheart facility would be built there needed to be a reinvestment and replacement of the infrastructure, which would become more expensive on an incremental basis from an upfront cost standpoint.

Mayor Schielke pointed out that the federal regulation at this point is just a proposal. Mayor Schielke inquired of Trotter what he understood about the potential change in standards. Trotter replied that with the discharge standards (phosphorous and total nitrogen) and the Fox River Study Group and the water quality not being at the intended use the USEPA has been putting a significant amount of pressure on the Illinois EPA to do something about a phosphorous standard. Trotter stated between the two groups the standard would likely be somewhere in between what they both desire. Mayor Schielke opined that perhaps the groups are waiting for the upcoming elections to come to a completion before finalizing regulations. Trotter commented he did not believe the philosophy would change, but opined the schedule for implementing those regulations would likely change. Mayor Schielke stated he appreciated the way Trotter made his presentation at this meeting because these issues would need to be taken on a point by point basis with the uncertainty of the regulation at present. Ritchason reiterated Trotter's comments on the Fox River Study Group and implications with USEPA and Illinois EPA. Mayor Schielke inquired if there was a different group looking at the Fox River past the borders of Illinois. Trotter mentioned that Wisconsin standards are stricter than those in Illinois and groups in Wisconsin are looking to Illinois to do their part.

Chairman Frydendall stated that phosphates have been banned in laundry detergents for years. Chairman Frydendall indicated that phosphates are still in dishwasher detergent and toothpaste. Trotter stated a much higher concentration of phosphorous use to be coming into the WWTF than now. Trotter added that phosphorous is a building block of life and a certain amount of phosphorous is needed and anywhere from 4-8 milligrams per liter is typical in this part of the world.

Ald. Brown inquired if the City of Batavia's WWTF is bringing in more solids now. Trotter replied that the WWTF is not bringing in more solids now and that the 2011 lab data showed fewer solids than in 1997. Trotter added that some of the sampling data provided a different value than what was thought the wastewater really contained. Holm stated that the City of Batavia worked with the EPA to change the sampling location. Trotter stated he had no problem using the new data on the existing plant and going

forward to design the new plant to avoid a situation where it might be under designed he encouraged designing to the higher value that has been seen. Holm inquired if the higher values are consistent with what Trotter has seen in other plants and more consistent with the EPA's generic values. Trotter confirmed same.

Bill McGrath asked for clarification on the odor causes and the seriousness of the issue. Trotter replied that the chimney effect coming off of the excess flow tank is the culprit that should be addressed the quickest. Ritchason indicated having the combined system is part of that culprit. Holm stated that engineering is in the process of quantifying the volume of storm water coming to the combined system and separating it from sanitary sewer that is going in the combined system. Holm opined that in the future there may be direction from the IEPA to separate all the sewers. Chairman Frydendall inquired if separating part of the system was done a few years ago. Trotter indicated a ballpark number to separate the system was \$8 Million for the combined sewer area.

Mayor Schielke inquired what the growth in the plant would be by separating the systems. Trotter indicated there would be no growth. Trotter stated the rating is based on the average day and not storm events. Trotter explained when a storm event comes into play then the excess flow facilities are required to treat a lot more water that gets into the combined sewer system and then there is a discharge. Trotter opined if Batavia did not have the combined sewer system the excess flow facilities would only operate once a year. Mayor Schielke asked if there was any area for savings by uncombining the system. Trotter indicated in the future it would be mandated, but that there would be no savings. Mayor Schielke indicated the combined sewer system has caused neighborhood problems. Mayor Schielke shared that some of the combined sewer system date back to the early 1900s.

Ald. Brown inquired if storm and sanitary sewer were completely separated would only sanitary sewer then be going to the plant. Trotter indicated only sanitary sewer would be going to the plant if separated from storm sewer. Ald. O'Brien inquired as to the amount taken away from the combined sewer when there is a storm event. Trotter replied that of the 25 million gallons the combined sewer represents five to seven million gallon peak. Trotter added that during a 100-year storm event 16 to 17 MGD could come to the WWTF and it currently has hydraulic capacity to treat 12 MGD. Trotter mentioned due to the age and condition of the pipes even if the system is fully separated there still could be flow that is over capacity, much like many areas of the Midwest.

4. Executive Session: Acquisition of Real Property (Gary Holm 10/26/12)

Motion: To adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of discussion of acquisition of real property.
Maker: Wolff

Second: O'Brien
Voice Vote: 6 Ayes, 1 Nay, Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. and when Regular Session resumed at 9:04 p.m. all the same Committee members were present.

**5. Discussion: Next phase of Wastewater Treatment facility analysis
(Gary Holm 10/26/12Trotter Associates)**

Gary Holm stated for Task Order #3 a scope would be developed and if it is less than \$20,000 Holm would sign that scope of work and the engineering process would begin. Holm indicated for Task Order #2 there would need to be future work sessions and then once the amount is known staff would return to the Committee with information.

6. Other

None.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. Volk and seconded by Ald. Wolff to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

Minutes prepared by
Connie Rizo