

MINUTES
December 17, 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.

Vice Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Aldermen Brown, Clark, Jungels, O'Brien, Volk, and Wolff

Members Absent: Alderman Frydendall

Also Present: Aldermen Sparks and Stark (7:05 p.m.); Brian Bettin, Manager of Electric Operations; Gary Holm, Public Works Director; William McGrath, City Administrator; Bob Rogde, Electric Superintendent; Mayor Schielke (7:08 p.m.), and Connie Rizo, Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes for

None.

3. Resolution 12-120-R: Overhead Electric Infrastructure Condition Evaluation (Brian Bettin 12/10/12)

Brian Bettin stated that the City of Batavia Electric Utility would be performing an evaluation of the overhead structures throughout the system. Bettin explained that the utility was going to determine the overall health and integrity of the poles and the 400 poles on the transmission 35kV line would have a structural load analysis done to verify the mechanical loading of the poles. Bettin shared that in an effort to assess the physical condition of all of the poles the City solicited proposals from companies that test, analyze, and provide repair to wooden utility poles. Vice Chairman Clark inquired how that is performed. Bettin replied that a sound, visual, and boring test is done at eye level, ground level, and 18 inches below the ground. Following that insecticide plugs are put into place to plug the holes. Ald. O'Brien asked if binoculars are used for the sections above eye level. Bettin stated if there is rot by the pole top pin and the cross arm it would be noticeable to see if there is rot there. Vice Chairman Clark inquired if all poles would be checked. Bettin stated all of the estimated 2600 poles would be checked including approximately 400 transmission poles.

Bob Rogde stated of the six transmission poles lost in the 7/1/12 storm on Western Avenue in Batavia five had significant rot and the other one snapped half way up and it is suspected that there was structural overloading.

Vice Chairman Clark inquired if there was any inclination that the poles on Western Avenue were rotting. Rogde replied there was no inclination and Bettin even stated in viewing the above ground level the poles looked good, but below ground they were rotted.

Ald. Wolff inquired if this review would assess if the poles are overloaded. Bettin stated it would assess for the loading of the poles. Rogde indicated once the review takes place and the information is gathered then a plan would be developed.

Vice Chairman Clark inquired if this review has been done before on the poles. Rogde replied the City has not done this pole review before. Ald. Volk indicated that 15 years ago there was a complete inventory of all the poles and he commented he thought there was a mechanical assessment too. Ald. Volk opined that that type of review faded away with the changes in the staff. Ald. Volk commented it is important to do this review and the database should be kept up to date. Rogde stated the utility does have a good count of the poles.

Ald. Wolff inquired if all the previous reviewing was done in house. Ald. Volk stated a company was hired to do the inventory. Ald. Brown stated he also believed previously it was just an inventory. Ald. Volk stated the database should be continually updated every year and have a rational pole replacement program. Rogde stated the City aimed to do that from this project.

Ald. O'Brien asked if the company would be cataloging all the poles and have them on a maintenance schedule. Bettin stated that the company recommended, Osmose, provides a web-based program that the utility can sign into and view all of the poles, their location, and their condition when tested. Ald. Wolff asked if that would dovetail in to the GIS system from the City. Gary Holm stated the GIS contacts would be at the kick-off meeting, so it can be coordinated right from the very start.

Ald. O'Brien inquired if there was a yearly fee to have access to the website. Bettin stated there is no fee. Ald. O'Brien inquired if the not-to-exceed initial amount of \$125,000 covered the utility for life in their system. Bettin stated Osmose keeps the information and the utility just has access to it. Vice Chairman Clark inquired if the information would be updated as time passes. Holm stated the information is kept in the website as a business marketing tool. Ongoing updates would be done at the city level using the GIS system or asset management software.

Vice Chairman Clark inquired as to the lifespan of a typical pole. Rogde stated an average wood pole should last 40 years. Vice Chairman Clark inquired if a schedule

existed to replace the poles or if they were just replaced after going bad. Rogde stated the utility is trying through this program to get ahead of when the poles need to be replaced and keep reliability numbers up.

Ald. O'Brien inquired if this review could be done in-house. Bettin stated the review is very labor intensive. Ald. O'Brien inquired if Osmose would be reviewing all 2600 poles. Bettin advised all the poles would be reviewed. Rogde stated from this information the utility would have information to set up a rotation to do review of a certain amount of poles every year.

Ald. Volk inquired if an inventory and assessment would be done on the concrete poles, metal poles, and non-organic poles. Rogde stated there is a good inventory of the steel poles and the cement poles would be the next project. Ald. Volk encouraged following up on those poles and keeping track of the infrastructure. Rogde stated following that there would be a review of underground wire.

Ald. Brown inquired about the digging around the wooden poles. Bettin stated the company would dig 18 inches down all the way around the pole to check it and also use insecticide wraps to give the pole more life. Ald. Brown asked if after the digging takes place would the company clean up the disturbed area nicely. Bettin stated that would be in the bid. Ald. Brown asked if JULIE would need to be called 2600 times. Bettin replied that it is the contractor's responsibility to contact JULIE.

Motion: To recommend to City Council waiving of formal bidding for contract award to Osmose for Overhead Electric Infrastructure Condition Evaluation.

Maker: Volk

Second: Wolff

Voice Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nay, Motion Carried.

Motion: To recommend to City Council approval of Resolution 12-120-R Authorizing Agreement with Osmose for the Overhead Electric Infrastructure Condition Evaluation in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00

Maker: Volk

Second: O'Brien

Voice Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nay, Motion Carried.

4. Approval – Waive Formal Bidding for Overhead Electric Infrastructure Condition Evaluation

See above.

5. Other

None.

6. Matters From the Public

None.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ald. Volk and seconded by Ald. O'Brien to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

Minutes prepared by
Connie Rizo