



COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Bellbrook City Council

From: Public Service Committee

Date: March 4, 2026

Subject: Summary of Public Service Committee Discussion – Water System Planning & PFAS Compliance

Purpose

This memo provides Council with a high-level briefing on the major topics discussed during the March 4 Public Service Committee meeting, with emphasis on items requiring future Council action or policy direction.

1. PFAS Remediation – Engineering RFP Preparation

The Committee reviewed the need to initiate a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select an engineering firm to design the City's PFAS remediation system. Federal and state requirements mandate that a treatment process be operational before the end of 2029.

Key Points for Council Awareness

- Two treatment technologies will be evaluated: **membrane filtration** (likely preferred) and **ion exchange**.
 - The project will significantly increase both capital and operating costs due to new chemical processes and hardness adjustments.
 - Water chemistry changes will likely increase main breaks and valve failures in older infrastructure.
 - This is expected to be the **largest capital project in the City's history**.
 - Staff intends to pursue financing through the Ohio EPA's **DEFA** program.
 - An RFP authorization resolution will be presented to Council.
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2. Water Main Replacement Strategy – Engineering Evaluation

The Committee discussed issuing a separate RFP for engineering evaluation of water main replacement needs.

Priority Areas Identified

- **Portage Path:** multiple breaks annually; highest-priority replacement.
- **Winter Haven:** cast iron mains under concrete streets complicate leak detection and repair.

Operational Note

New leak-detection equipment is improving accuracy and reducing excavation time.

3. Water Project Manager Position

Staff proposed creating a dedicated **Water Project Manager** position to support PFAS implementation and long-term water system management.

Position Overview

- Oversees construction, inspections, testing, and regulatory compliance.
- Must obtain a **Class II water license** to serve as backup operator.
- Intended as an internal promotion.
- Fully funded through the Water Fund.

A formal position creation request will be brought to Council after administrative review.

4. Sackett-Wright Park – Land Use and Wellfield Agreements

The Committee discussed the need to formalize agreements with the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Park District regarding land use, maintenance responsibilities, and wellfield protection at Sackett-Wright Park.

Issues Identified

- Mixed ownership of land containing wells and test wells.
- No existing agreements defining responsibilities or protections.
- Park District confirmed **no fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides** are used on athletic fields.
- Future EPA permitting for PFAS treatment may require documented land-use controls.

The Law Director is preparing a legal review and recommendations for Council consideration.

5. Strategic Direction

The Committee's discussions reflect a coordinated, long-term approach to:

- PFAS compliance
- Water infrastructure renewal
- Operational capacity and staffing
- Interagency coordination with the Park District

These items will drive major capital and operational decisions throughout 2026 and beyond.