



JOINT WATER/SEWER BOARD OF THE CITY OF BUCHANAN AND BUCHANAN TOWNSHIP

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2023 – 7:00 AM

CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

THE JOINT WATER SEWER BOARD OF THE CITY OF BUCHANAN AND BUCHANAN TOWNSHIP, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, hereby gives notice of a regular meeting to be held in the Chamber of Buchanan City Hall.

* Comments may be submitted in writing at least 72 hours in advance to the City Clerk at clerk@cityofbuchanan.com

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 a.m. by Chairperson Gordon.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Gordon led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson/Buchanan Township Trustee Tom Gordon; City Commissioner, Patrick Swem; City Commissioner, Dan Vigansky; Brian Murphy

Absent: Buchanan Township Supervisor, Mindy Cole-Crocker

There is a quorum.

City Staff: City Clerk, Kalla Langston; Director of Public Services, Mike Baker; Water Operator-in-Charge, Craig Miller; Wastewater Operator-in-Charge, Andy Warner

IV. Approve Agenda

Motion made by Swem supported by Murphy to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote carries unanimously.

V. Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

VI. Approve Minutes

A. Consider approving the JWSB minutes from August 21, 2023.

Motion made by Murphy supported by Swem to approve the August 21, 2023 minutes as presented. Roll call vote carries unanimously.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Discussion concerning Life Action Camp connection to the city WWTP via the Twp's infrastructure

- Frank Renaldi, engineer with Wightman on the project presents: they project usage of ~37,000 gallons a day over 9 months of the year for a full build-out, up from their current ~20,000gal/day. What does the city need to do to connect at each point?
- Three possible connection points, two involve upgrading LS's one is longer balancing costs
 - 3A: corner of Front St and Bakertown Rd – goes through Post and Glaser lift stations
 - 3B: near school on the north end of 4th St – no lift station but longer line
 - 3C: near Fapco off Terre Coupe St – goes through Glaser lift station
- If improving LS we can upsize the pumps or force main, whatever's necessary to take the flow
- If we're not upgrading LS then consider gravity connection more seriously, it should be lined

- Might want to put a flow meter out there or look at water bills to get an idea of flow
- First tackle inflow and infiltration to remove that → set up the system and pump a mile short of the discharge point → implement chemical treatment to neutralize the H₂S in the system and prevent further pipe damage → recommend lining manholes
- Things to Consider
 - What's considered an REU? Is it by flow or looked at as commercial? Who would we bill?
 - Renaldi updated the SAW report estimates (added 40% due to changes since covid)
 - Miller and Baker will make the videos of pipelines accessible to Renaldi
 - 4th St connection seems best, unless we can afford lift station upgrades and redo lines
- Moving Forward: get footage estimates for new lines, find line videos, reconvene with township

B. General discussion and assessment of system expansion opportunities – City Manager, Benjamin Eldridge

Commissioner Swem – Just opening a general discussion for us to start thinking about the landfill and Chamberlain Road expansions. As the landfill grows what does the completion of Chamberlain Rd extension for water look like? Is it something you guys want to put on the radar along with this project if you're going to go out for funding?

Gordon – Certainly a discussion we'll have to start having with the township, though we're not able to say one way or another yet. We will take it to the team at the township.

VIII. New Business

A. Water Department Report- Craig Miller, Operator in Charge

- Maintenance: installed 4 meters, repaired 6 water valves that were leaking due to water shut offs, replaced 2 sidewalks, repaired a few potholes for the state, fixed a broken hydrant, replaced 2 meter dead heads (5 more on order to replace others that have died)
- Well 4A is back in service
- Hydrant Flushing's in the first week of October went good
- One upcoming lead line replacement (on corner of Elizabeth and Red Bud)
- All park and cemetery water has been shut off for wintertime
- Well head protection book is complete
- Last month water loss at 0 – it was slowly dropping but now that we have actual reads we suspect there may be a gap in billing so we will see where water loss is at next billing

B. Waste Water Department Report- Andy Warner, Operator in Charge

- 1) Septage: still bringing it in, and it makes us a little bit of money
- 2) Submitted compliance reports to the state
- 3) IPP: drafted new landfill discharge permit with a few changes was submitted to EGLE for review
 - a. Equalization basin went live recently and is working with no impact on revenue.
 - b. We previously discharged over a short window in middle of the night putting pressure on the Schirmer Lift Station, but now we discharge all day to mellow peaks of activity.
 - c. Note: change language regarding frequency of reports from biannually to semiannually
- 4) NPDES Requirements: tested influent and effluent for copper, PFAS, and mercury concentration
- 5) DMRQA: passed annual test for the fourth year in a row
- 6) PFAS: sampled for PFAS as required
- 7) Leachate: billed landfill \$37,985.17 in Aug-Sept
- 8) Sludge: major effort over the last few months to figure out our sludge, operating differently
 - a. We are removing half the sludge we were previously, hopefully we'll see some cost reduction. Operating one ditch as an aerobic digester – settle bugs and bacteria out,

sludge in the bottom is returned to the beginning of the process. One ditch is only returned sludge and continues to aerate, the bugs eat each other.

- b. Figured out how to use 37.5% less polymer, and new dumpster liners reduce cost by 40%
- 9) SCADA System
- a. Windemuller installed another 120V surge protector, but the system failed again. Identified potential cause after replacing power supply box. Installation free of charge.
 - b. If issues and big repair bills continue the plant can be run the old-fashioned way.
- 10) Maintenance: performed lots of regular maintenance

IX. Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items Only

X. Adjournment

Gordon adjourns the meeting at 8:20 am.