

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

City of Rollingwood

Meeting Date: November 7, 2024

Utility Commission

Submitted By:

Staff

Agenda Item:

Discussion and possible action regarding a policy for grinder pump maintenance and replacement

Description:

During the October City Council Meeting, the City Council discussed the cost of maintaining the approximately 120 grinder pumps within the city. This policy discussion was sent to the Utility Commission for consideration.

Grinder pumps are located on private property and historically the city has paid for their maintenance and replacement. Attached is a breakdown of the city's costs related to grinder pumps between the months of August 2021 and September 2024. These costs only include what was paid to Crossroads, the City's Water and Wastewater Operator, and do not include any staff time spent responding to grinder pump-related calls. Below is a table that summarizes this data:

<u>Dates</u>	<u># of Months</u>	<u>Cost</u>
August to December 2021	5 Months	\$15,368
January to December 2022	12 Months	\$30,059
January to December 2023	12 Months	\$17,277
January to September 2024	10 Months	\$24,340

The City Council also had some additional questions about the grinder pumps that staff and our contractor are investigating. Below are preliminary answers to some of these questions:

1. Does Crossroads/City Staff have any information on the types of maintenance being performed on the grinder pumps or the cause of the calls for maintenance?
Response from Crossroads: The most common calls are for failed pumps. The second most common calls are for electrical failure.
2. How many of the calls for grinder pump maintenance result from the pump being worn out versus improper items being flushed? **We are still analyzing the service history.**
3. Do we have repeat offenders for maintenance calls?
There are some grinder pumps that have required maintenance more than once.
4. When were the grinder pumps purchased? **Unsure but investigating. The purchase dates will vary pump to pump.**
5. If we were to switch to a monthly charge for having a grinder pump, what services would the monthly charge cover? How many trips or calls would this include? **That is something we could determine as part of our policy. It could include a certain number of calls per month per pump or could cover certain types of maintenance. It could also exclude any issues with the pumps that are determined to have been caused by misuse.**
6. What is the average number of service calls on grinder pumps per month for rate making purposes? **We are still analyzing the service history.**
7. How many calls for grinder pump maintenance were there in the last year? **We are still analyzing the service history.**
8. Will we have to replace any grinder pumps soon? **We are looking into this question.**
9. Have we already had to purchase grinder pumps to replace old ones?
Response from Hydrosourc: We have one brand new grinder pump that we use as a "loaner pump." We show 10 pumps that have been sold to Rollingwood in the last 4 years, including the loaner pump.
10. How did the city get ownership of the grinder pumps at homes? **We are looking into this question.**
11. Do we have easements on the grinder pump stations on every lot? **No.**
12. Does our code require for the city to install the grinder pump? **Section 22-4 of the City's Code of Ordinances states: If a grinder pump is necessary, as determined by the director of public works or other designated agent of the city, the property owner shall install a grinder pump approved by the director of public works or other designated agent of the city. Thereafter, the city may repair and replace subsequent grinder pumps to serve the property in accordance with policies and budgets adopted from time to time by the city council, provided that the property owner or other person with appropriate authority grants to the city's agents permission to enter the property for such purpose.**

The goal of this item/discussion is to come away with some policy direction or ideas that staff can use in the formation of a draft policy regarding grinder pump maintenance and replacement.

Action Requested:

To discuss and consider possible policy options regarding responsibility for grinder pump maintenance and replacement.

Fiscal Impacts:

The fiscal impact will be determined based on the policy that is ultimately adopted regarding grinder pump maintenance and replacement.

Attachments:

- Grinder Pump Expenses since August 2021