

Village of Wauconda
Minutes of Public Works Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 4:00 PM

Committee Members Present:

Ken Arnsward, Chair
John Barbini
Chuck Black

Public Works Department Employees Present:

David Geary, Director, Village Administrator
Jackie Soccorso, Superintendent of Administration
Alex Pryde, Superintendent of Operations
Tracy Fessler, Assistant to the Director
Robert Devery, Village Engineer

Meeting called to order at 4:06 P.M. by Chair Arnsward.

The first item discussed was the Public Works website/Public Works Department Annual Report. Administrator/Director Geary gave an interactive demonstration of the website. He highlighted the Online Services button and explained the GovQA system. GovQA allows members of the public to ask questions, find answers to frequently asked questions, and make requests for service. Members of the public who choose to provide an e-mail address can then log-in and track the status of their requests for service. The website also currently allows for online payment of water/sewer bills and there are preliminary plans to upgrade and streamline the online bill pay option. The Department bi-monthly administrative reports and annual reports are on the website. The Department is divided into the three divisions: Water, Street, and Water Reclamation. The Water Division webpage allows for online bill pay, includes the annual water quality report, info on the Adopt-a-Hydrant program and various public education items, such as outdoor watering guidelines and restrictions. The Street Division webpage contains information on snowplow safety, mailbox placement, the Adopt-a Roadway program, the parkway tree program, forestry activities, and how to report a streetlight outage. The Water Reclamation webpage contains a virtual tour of the water reclamation facility and includes an article written by staff entitled "Where Does the Water Go?" Trustee Barbini asked how many fire hydrants were tested last year. Superintendent Pryde responded that it was about 200. Administrator/Director Geary distributed copies of last year's Department annual report and commented on several areas discussed within the report. The report is on the Village's website.

The second item discussed was the vehicle replacement plan. The Department has not purchased a new vehicle in the last three years due to budgetary constraints. Administrator/Director Geary stated that a new dump truck purchase would be presented at the COW meeting tonight. The proposed new dump truck would replace the oldest one in the fleet. The newest vehicle was purchased four years ago. Operationally, the vehicles in the middle of the fleet in terms of life span are used most often for routine activities. Equipment and vehicles have a long life span. When considering a proposed purchase, the difference between the expenses to maintain an older vehicle vs. the cost to purchase a new vehicle is examined. The current vehicle replacement plan was adjusted in the last year, adding five more years to the projected replacement schedule.

Minor repairs are performed by Village staff; major repairs are performed by local vendors. Vehicles have extended warranties.

The third item discussed was Lake Michigan Water. Village Engineer Bob Devery provided a comprehensive overview of the history of the Lake Michigan Water project, a timeline of events, and future considerations. Mr. Devery reviewed the components of the Village's existing water system including wells, tanks, pressure zones, booster stations, pumps, and mains. Mr. Devery explained that the Village uses groundwater supply and that a surface water supply needs an allocation from IDNR. The Village secured an allocation for Lake Michigan Water from IDNR for the years 2015-2030. The amount allocated is 1.5 to 2.32 MGD and was based on anticipation of future growth in population. Now that the Village has secured an IDNR allocation, the next step is to find a supplier for the water. The Village has several options.

Option #1-North-West Lake County Lake Michigan Water Planning Group

The Village is currently a member of this group, all members of which received INDR allocations in 2011. This group may form a Joint Action Water Agency (JAWA) and function as a group to plan infrastructure to supply Lake Michigan Water to member communities. Latest rate estimates are \$7.00-\$9.00 per 1,000 gallons with project costs of roughly \$25M. The group may be a shaky ground as some members may leave the group.

Option #2-CLCJAWA

In this option, the Village would obtain Lake Michigan water from the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (CLCJAWA). Some members of CLCJAWA are Lake Bluff, Mundelein, Round Lake, Round Lake Beach, Round Lake Park, Grayslake, Gurnee, and Lake County. The water plant is located in Lake Bluff. The Village could pursue membership in CLCJAWA or become a wholesale purchaser of CLCJAWA. New members must be voted in, which has never been done before. In order for the Village to become a wholesale purchaser, a simple majority vote of CLCJAWA members is required. The cost is estimated to be \$25M and the water rate is estimated to be \$2.46 per 1,000 gallons. CLCJAWA is interested in selling to outside communities to make up for losses to current customers. They have 7 MGD capacity available to sell and must take into account maximum daily usages. In August, CLCJAWA will have a recommendation listing which communities are the best fits. In October, CLCJAWA will provide cost estimates to those communities on the list.

Option #3-Northwest Water Commission

In this option, the Village would obtain Lake Michigan water from the Northwest Water Commission (NWC). Some members of the commission are Wheeling, Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, and Palatine. Water would be provided through the intake point in Evanston. The NWC would like to sell water more than CLCJAWA because they have no steady growth in the member communities. Current water rates are \$1.90 per 1,000 gallons. This could change. Rate structure would include the back-up system requirement. Connection fees are under discussion. Financing may be allowed. All of the member communities are home-rule communities. Because Wauconda is not home-rule, this might be of concern. Wauconda may have option to purchase water from the NWC as a wholesale customer as opposed to becoming a member of the NWC. Potential connection point would be at Buffalo Grove Rd and Aptakisic Rd. This is 12 miles away.

Option #4-Village of Northbrook

In this option, the Village would obtain Lake Michigan water from the Village of Northbrook. Northbrook currently sells water to Riverwoods and Mission Hills Subdivision. Northbrook had 6 MGD for sale now. No connection fees. This option would require water treatment facility upgrades. Current rates are \$4.08 per 1,000 gallons residential and \$3.06 per 1,000 gallons wholesale. There is an expected rate increase of 10% in 2014. Connection point would be in Northbrook. This is 26 miles away and would require 26 miles of new water main.

Option #5-Partner with the Village of Lake Zurich

In this option, the Village would partner with Lake Zurich and may be able to split the costs of piping Lake Michigan water to the two towns and may also possibly split costs of any water treatment plant upgrades. There may be financial advantage to partner with another community as Wauconda decides on a source of Lake Michigan water.

To bring Lake Michigan water to Wauconda, Wauconda needs additional infrastructure. The water distribution system needs to be upsized and more pumps are needed. Optimally, the Village would have two connection points-one in the low zone and one in the high zone. This would require additional land purchases.

Trustee Starkey asked how the landfill affects the ability to obtain Lake Michigan water. Mr. Devery responded that the fact that the Village has a landfill in its jurisdiction helped the Village to obtain an allocation for Lake Michigan water from IDNR. It does not affect how and where the Village may obtain the Lake Michigan water for use.

Trustee Barbini asked who pays the legal bills associated with the various components of this project. Mr. Devery answered that it is the financial responsibility of the Village.

There are internal system costs associated with bringing Lake Michigan water to Wauconda. Through the North-West Lake County Lake Michigan Water Planning Group, the overall costs are estimated at \$34-\$40M. Through CLCJAWA, the overall costs are estimated at \$35-\$45M. Through the NWC, the overall costs are estimated at \$40-\$44M. Through Northbrook, the overall costs are estimated to be \$25-\$28M plus potential connection fees. In August or September, the North-West Lake County Lake Michigan Water Planning Group, should have a better cost estimate prepared, based upon the number of communities that remain with the group. The Village of Wauconda, if it does connect to Lake Michigan water, is likely to have the ability to then sell some of that water to adjacent towns such as Volo, Lake Zurich, etc. At this point, Lake Zurich has completed a feasibility study and has shared those results with Wauconda. The Village has no formal commitment to partnering with Lake Zurich. The Village may also consider partnerships with Volo. The WTG may be available as a potential funding source to contribute to the project costs. This is very preliminary at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Soccorso

Copies to:

Mayor Knigge; Ken Arnsward, Chair; Village Board members; Administrator/Director Geary