

## Water Sewer Committee Meeting

The Vergas Water/Sewer Committee met at the Vergas Event Center on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 9:00 am with the following present: Natalie Fischer, Dean Haarstick, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane and Clerk- Treasurer Julie Lammers.

### Additions and Deletions

None.

### Pond Grease

Natalie Fischer and Mike DuFrane met with Joe Jenson, Mn Rural Water and reviewed the pond and storm drains for grease last week. If the pond reaches 25% grease the pond will turn black, and the city will need to replace or clean the pond for a large sum of money. The water and sewer committee feels we need to be proactive with this issue. Our current ordinance states:

#### **§ 51.086 GREASE, OIL, AND SAND INTERCEPTORS.**

Grease, oil, and sand interceptors shall be provided when, in the opinion of the Utilities Superintendent, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing floatable grease in excessive amounts, as specified in § 51.082(B)(2), any flammable wastes as specified in § 51.081(A), sand or other harmful ingredients; except that interceptors shall not be required for private living quarters or dwelling units. All interceptors shall be of the type to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection. In the maintaining of these interceptors, the owner shall be responsible for the proper removal and disposal of the captured materials by appropriate means and shall maintain a record of dates and means of disposal that are subject to review by the Utilities Superintendent. Any removal and hauling of the captured materials not performed by the owner's personnel must be performed by a currently licensed waste disposal firm.

Penalty, see § 51.999.

Discussed meeting with the following businesses in the city: Billy's, Skal, Vergas 66, Loons Nest, MW Bakery and Ditterich Mercantile to discuss the need for internal grease traps. Joe Jenson, MN Rural Water will attend the June Council meeting and Lammers was asked to invite the food businesses which use our municipal sewer system. Recommend Council enforce the internal grease traps in businesses by October 1, 2023 or charge the businesses for extra jetting, bugs and cleanup of grease issue. Also request a permit for businesses which sell food requiring them to provide records of grease.

(After the meeting Joe Jenson stated he was unable to attend the meeting on June 13 and will attend the meeting on July 11, 2023. Lammers will invite businesses to the July 11 Council meeting)

### Cross Connection Policy

Discussed cross contamination which resulted in an emergency for the City of Vergas. DuFrane stated backflow preventors are inspected by the state plumbing inspector and we will need to review state plumbing code. When businesses apply for a construction permit, they should let the city know if they will be working with anything that may cause a backflow into the city's water system. DuFrane recommended the city establish a policy requiring permit which includes annual inspection records of the backflow meter.

### Emergency Fine

Discussed the cost of the emergency to the City of Vergas utility customers. Costed approximately \$910.00 in water and \$1,654.22 for employees. Discussed other costs which were associated with the emergency and inconvenience to city utility customers. Motion by Fischer, seconded by Haarstick to recommend to Council to fine Recyclose \$2,800 for the backflow emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Julie Lammers

City Clerk-Treasurer

City of Vergas

### **Follow up actions:**

Lammers to invite food businesses to the July Council meeting.

Lammers to have information on proper drain disposal City newsletter.

Write policy for backflow meters.

### **Recommendations to Council:**

Fine Recyclose \$2,800 for backflow emergency.