

Water Sewer Committee Meeting

The Vergas Water/Sewer Committee met at the Vergas City Office on Wednesday, August 2, 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

The Council proposed some beginning actions, before more aggressive actions taken. What is important is that action is taken now vs later. Actions include: 1) The 3rd phase and Railway Avenue jetting of the city sewer pipes will occur the end of August; 2) Fact sheet placed in the water bill to outline the issues with grease going into the wastewater system; 3) Grease traps and/or grease bins be used if already in place; 4) Place a poster regarding grease going into the wastewater system and the implications next to where grease is sold. Ditterich Mercantile offered support to have the poster placed in the store; and lastly 5) Look for available grants that could assist the City in addressing the wastewater issue.

DuFrane has scheduled jetting for the end of August. Lammers has added information to newsletter, placed poster up on bulletin boards and at Ditterich Mercantile and is receiving grease records from Billy's Corner Bar & Grill monthly.

Lammers has found an infrastructure grant that may pay for grease traps. Grant available through MN Pollution Control Agency is due Thursday, September 14 and there is a webinar Tuesday, August 8 at 1 pm Lammers was encouraged to attend. The committee would like the following to be included in the grant: grease traps, increased jetting costs, videoing the whole city sewer system and a Scada System.

Grease traps will be used in all restaurant businesses. Jetting will be expanded as currently 1/3 of the City is done every 4 years. Videoing the city will help the committee plan for repairs and see where there is heavy grease flow. Scada System will provide accurate computerized readings on the city water plant as well as lift stations. This will cut the employees' hours down (as they would no longer need to work weekends) and help with reports to the state.

Discussed State listing, which is needed if the City would like to apply for state granting. The committee will need to work on a project list and work with Widseth to submit PFA.

Ordinance Updates

The committee discussed current ordinances and we need to look into backflow preventor ordinance. DuFrane stated he thought the city already had one – he was asked to bring ordinance to our next meeting. Ordinance needs to be based on MN State Plumbing Code. Would like a permit which will allow those with backflow to provide annual records to the city.

Budget-goal setting

DuFrane need to work with Engineer Blaine Green to provide a project list. The Water Tower needs to be painted and money needs to be put away. Discussed raising rates and decided to wait until September to make decisions when we have the project list and know more about granting opportunities. Discussed water audit device which hooks to our current system and can read 90 days' worth of water readings by hourly usage. Discussed charged the water consumer for receiving the data if it is found the water did go through the meter. The committee decided to find out the cost before deciding if they want to charge for this service, as only 3 people have used it in the past few months.

DuFrane informed the committee the Mn Department of Health has informed him one of our five homes which are tested for lead as come back with high levels. The following was provided to the property owner:

Thank you for participating in the lead/copper tap monitoring that was recently conducted.

This letter is to report the lead results for the above-designated sample location. You are receiving this advance notification of your lead result because your result was above the EPA action limit. The reported result is **30.0 ppb** for lead. The action level for lead is 15.0 ppb with the maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) set at zero.

Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

There is no safe level of lead, and you should take steps to understand why your result may have been elevated and to reduce your exposure. You will receive another letter reporting your lead and copper results, as soon as our water system receives them from the Minnesota Department of Health.

For additional information on lead in your drinking water, please refer to the enclosed fact sheet or go to <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/lead.html>.

Having a home 15 causing the city to have more required testing and information sent to utility users. The committee decided to find out the cost to have this property retested. (After the meeting DuFrane received a quote of \$50.00 to have water tested for lead from RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes). Water will be retested, and city employees will continue to work with the MN Department of Health.

2023 Comprehensive Plan Review

Reviewed the 2023 Comprehensive Plan review worksheet.

Public Services and Facilities the water and sewer committee is working on prioritizing needs by making a project list.

Land Use and Build Form the water and sewer committee is developing a tiered system for expansion based on capacity.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Julie Lammers

City Clerk-Treasurer

City of Vergas

Follow up actions:

Write policy for backflow meters.

Lammers will attend grant seminar.

Dufrane to provide backflow prevention ordinance.

DuFrane will get quotes for videoing city, Scada system and additional jetting.

Recommendations to Council:

None.