

Water Sewer Committee Meeting

The Vergas Water/Sewer Committee met at the Vergas Government Services Center on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 8:30 am with the following members present: Members Dean Haarstick and Dwight Lundgren; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane and Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers; Engineer Blaine Green, and Katelyn Kack GIS Specialist.

Call to Order

Lammers called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Additions and Deletions

None

Vergas Hardware (storm drain)

Regarding the storm drain issue, it's reported that the property owners will redirect the runoff from the front roof to the gutter by the dumpster at their own expense, resolving the matter without cost to the city.

Main Street Infrastructure

The committee discussed the upcoming resurfacing of Main Street by Ottertail County in 2028. The committee determined that the city's water infrastructure, installed in 1993, should be good until at least 2030 (estimated life 50 years) and does not need replacement. However, plan to request that the county consider crowning the road to improve water runoff. The committee also mentioned plans to relocate a sewer line for the Municipal Building to the other side of the structure during future renovations. The team discussed the sewer system of a building, specifically focusing on the location of the sewer line and the possibility of redirecting it for a shorter run. DuFrane was asked to consult with Hanson's to either camera or locate the sewer line to determine the best course of action. If they are unable to provide information, find another company that could.

Lift Station

DuFrane informed the committee that he doesn't have the quotes for the lift station yet but will include them in the water-sewer portion of the packet for the council meeting. The committee agrees to this approach by passing a separate committee review.

New Service Line -Pelican Avenue

The meeting discussed the potential development of a new service line for Pelican Avenue. The developer is considering building on the area, which would require the installation of water and sewer systems. The attendees discussed the possibility of connecting the new service line to existing infrastructure. They also considered the feasibility of extending the service line further south to accommodate future development. The attendees agreed to include a utility easement in the documentation to allow for future connections. The conversation ended with the understanding that the new service line would primarily serve the area around the lake, with the possibility of expansion in the future.

The meeting focused on the city's agreement with contractors regarding engineering costs. The city's engineer is responsible for verifying the contractors' designs to ensure they match the city's system. The city pays for the engineer's review of the plans, while the contractor covers the cost of the actual infrastructure work. The meeting also discussed the need for a written ordinance to protect the city from developers who want to drill wells within city limits. The city is considering splitting the cost of a lift station with the developer to ensure consistency with the rest of the system.

Lead Copper Lines

Lammers stated the state extended the deadline to apply for the grant and is waiting for the State to notify the city if the grant is accepted.

2025 Projects

Sewer Projects

DuFrane discussed the current operating depth of the system at the ponds, which is 5.5 feet, and the need to expand it. They considered the need to start looking at expanding the lagoon system. The team also discussed the importance of being able to receive grant dollars or low-cost loan dollars, which would have a great impact on their rates. They concluded that rates would need to be raised to maintain the system and to pay for the lagoons.

Water Projects

DuFrane stated he knew of no projects for 2025.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 09:36 am.

Julie Lammers, CMC
City Clerk-Treasurer
City of Vergas

Recommendations to Council:

None.

Follow-up actions:

- Lammers will look up existing ordinances regarding developers' responsibilities for engineering costs and utility hookups within city limits.
- Lammers to research creating a new ordinance requiring developers to pay for engineering costs and mandating city utility hookups within city limits.
- DuFrane will find a company to locate and camera the sewer line for the municipal building located at 111 Main St.
- Lammers will respond to the county that the city does not have infrastructure concerns for Main Street but would like them to consider crowning the road to help with water runoff.
- Green will inspect First Street for potential road repair needs.
- Lammers will discuss First Street repair to the street committee's agenda.
- Green will start looking into expanding the sewer system (Lagoon) and getting on the Intended Use Plan (IUP) list for future funding.