

Middletown Water Operating



Committee

Meeting June 13, 2023, 11:00 am EST

Due to COVID-19, Meeting to be held via Google Meets/Telephone

Committee Members:

Ken Klinepeter (Middletown Borough)
Don Correll (WCP)
Jason Kiernan (Veolia)
Kodi Webb (Veolia)

Additional:

Bradley Pensyl (Allen & Overy)
Ken Bonn (Argo)
Justin Mendinsky (HRG)
Michael Winfield (Post and Schell)
Michael Barger (Veolia)
Chris Halleron (Veolia)
Jenny Miller (Middletown Borough)

1. Introductions/Opening Comments

After a roll call, Mr. Correll called the meeting to order. A PowerPoint presentation was presented.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Correll made a motion to move the circulated February 2023 and April 27, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Klinepeter moved the minutes. Mr. Correll seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. Operations Update

Ms. Webb stated that annual valve turning has been completed. The annual hydrant flushing had started and 2023 sewer jetting was still in progress. The second oxidation ditch had been drained and cleaned, and the rubber sheets that line the rotors were replaced. Both waste tanks had been cleaned and the damaged aerators have been replaced. The chemical feed update for Well #4 had commenced. Major equipment that is out of service include Well #3 and #4, raw pump #3 which had a seal failure and is out being repaired, the cooling pump by the chlorine contact tank which had a seal failure that was repaired and is back in service, and the influent screen in the wet well which had a mechanical failure and is pending repair.

There were no main breaks or valve repairs in May or June, but there was one service leak which was a curb stop replacement on Plane Street. There have been no SSO's, backups or smart cover alarms. The Well 4 chemical feed upgrade has begun: a new drop pipe is being installed, along with a new well pump, upgraded chemical feed equipment, and a new chlorine analyzer. A new SCADA computer will be installed as this project progresses, as the current SCADA computer is out of tags for additional assets. The new computer will have additional cybersecurity protections and have additional tags. Ms. Webb provided a smart cover map showing trends with the lack of rain. Flows have been steady with a good diurnal flow at the interceptor manholes. There has not been very much visible grit in the manholes. PA DEP has not declared a drought for Dauphin County or any county in Pennsylvania at the time. The area is in a 6 inch rain deficit, but rain was anticipated during the upcoming forecast. Ms. Webb explained a recent meter switch to Neptune 360 which was highlighted in the previous committee meeting. The annual small meter replacement program will be starting with 267 meters being changed out this year. Letters were sent out to customers on June 5th with scheduling instructions with MeterTek, the company that Veolia has contracted with for the

replacement work. The employee information, including license plate number and a copy of the MeterTek identification badge were provided to the Borough. The anticipated start date is the end of June for the meter replacement program.

Ms. Webb asked if there were any questions with regard to the operational update. There were none.

4. Capital Investment/Engineering Report

Ms. Webb explained that the wastewater portion of the 2018/2021 project was completed and the water portion of the project will begin next. Planning is underway for the 2022/2023 project with a section of Emaus Street being examined where the Borough plans to do a street project and other locations with historical leaks are also being evaluated. The High Street Tank rehab project was completed and returned to service in January 2023. The Turnpike Tank will be the next tank worked on by IK Stoltzfus. HRG is working with Veolia to obtain a temporary pressure booster system for the Union Street tank to ensure adequate pressure is maintained while that rehabilitation project is underway. This will require additional Permitting with PADEP. Permit times with the agency have gone down substantially from when the other permits were filed.

5. CPI and Impact on Future Rate Increases

Mr. Correll explained there was an update coming out on June 13 for the national CPI but it is unknown at the time of the meeting. Things have been trending better this year compared to what they were for the 12 month period ending last June which was 7.6%. Assuming the report for June, which should be known before the next committee meeting, are in line with the recent reports, it is estimated that the index change will be 3-4% less than what the CPI-related increase to rates was last year. So the index change is likely to be similar to the 2021 CPI increase.

6. Royalton Agreement

Mr. Correll stated that a draft revised contract was provided previously, and there was an understanding there would be another extension of the existing contract which was anticipated to be 6 months. Mr. Correll asked Mr. Winfield if the proposed update had been reviewed so communications with Royalton could begin. Mr. Winfield stated that the draft is still under review but the Borough has passed a resolution approving the 6- month extension of the existing contract to the end of the calendar year. It is the understanding that Royalton is pursuing a similar resolution to extend the existing contract. Mr. Correll stated that there should be something scheduled in the next couple of weeks to move the discussion of the draft revised contract forward with Royalton. Mr. Correll stated that it is believed that the draft revised contract had not been shared with Royalton at this point pending review by the Borough and its counsel. Mr. Pensyl stated only the extensions have been discussed with Royalton to date.

7. Community Service

Mr. Halleron stated that Veolia was at the Middletown Area Historical Society Arts and Crafts show the previous weekend. It was a great weekend and a beautiful day, there were 4,000 people that came through with a lot of customer interaction. The sponsorship was also secured for the Frosty 5K in December and the check was presented.

8. Next Meeting

Mr. Correll suggested that the next regular meeting be held at 10 AM on July 27th, 2023.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Correll asked for any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.