



**Middletown Water Operating Committee
Meeting July 27, 2023, 10:00 am EST**

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

Committee Members:

Ken Klinepeter (Middletown Borough)
Don Correll (WCP)
Dan Sugarman (WCP)
Kodi Webb (Veolia)

Additional:

Bradley Pensyl (Allen & Overy)
Ken Bonn (Argo)
Justin Mendinsky (HRG)
Michael Winfield (Post and Schell)
Michael Barger (Veolia)
Ryan Hagain (Veolia)
Annmarie Rutigliani (Veolia)
Jagruti Patel (Veolia)
Shuang Li (Argo)
Jenny Miller (Middletown Borough)
John Joyner (WCP)

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 June 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Correll moved the minutes. Mr. Sugarman seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. Operations Update

Ms. Webb stated that the small meter replacement program has begun. Annual hydrant flushing has continued with the expectation of being completed by early August. Following annual hydrant flushing, full system leak detection will begin. This is done after valve turning and flushing in order to determine if there are any issues with the valves or hydrants that were operated. The second oxidation ditch has been drained, cleaned and had new rubber baffles installed. One of the clarifiers was drained for a visual inspection, cleaning and rubber replacement. The water SCADA computer upgrade was completed, which was required in order to complete the chemical feed upgrades at the wells. The SCADA computer was outdated and out of tags so no new equipment would be controlled by SCADA until the upgrade was complete. The Consumer Confidence report was distributed to customers at 10 locations around town and posted online. The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) reopened on July 10th. LIHWAP was previously closed due to lack of funding. Five people have applied for this program in about 2 weeks.

Mr. Joyner asked how people can find this information. Ms. Webb explained that the customer service supervisor will let people know if there are customers that are having trouble paying their bills. It is also posted on several social media sites as well.

Ms. Webb stated that there are a few pieces of equipment that are out of service. Well 3, Well 4, and the raw 3 pump which was installed and placed back into service on July 25th after a seal failure



repair. The influent raw screen suffered a mechanical failure and is pending repair. Ms. Webb explained that it was a quiet month in June and July as far as repairs are concerned. There were 2 valves repaired on Astor Ave. and on N. Catherine St. There were no SSO's or backups on the wastewater side and no Smart Cover alarms.

Ms. Webb reported that the Well 4 upgrade has begun and should be completed by early August. The project includes a new drop pipe, new well pump, new chemical feed pump as well as adding a new CL17SC from Hach for reliable chlorine readings. After Well 4, the chemical feed process for Well 6 will be next to upgrade and then work will continue with the other wells. Ms. Webb stated there have not been any Smart Cover alarms as it has been a relatively dry month and there was a drought watch notice issued from PA DEP asking for voluntary conservation of water. Ms. Webb displayed a graph and stated that it shows the rain and stated there hasn't been very much lately. Ms. Webb explained that the small meter replacement program includes 5/8 to inch meters. Letters were sent out in June to set up appointments with the contractor MeterTek. The program began in early July and to date there have been 148 meters and MIU's that have been changed out. Veolia is continuing to change out meters with internal staff if the times MeterTek has available do not work. This should be wrapped up in the next month and 267 meters in total will have been replaced.

4. Customer Service

Ms. Patel explained the water revenue and indicated that total consumption is up 2.6%. There is a small anomaly that was there last year as well regarding the Royalton consumption. Royalton's consumption was down in 2022 but in 2023 it went up 31%. Sewer revenues are also trending well.

Ms. Webb stated that there has been contact with Royalton and they are aware of 3 large residential leaks and there have been people filling their pools over the last month resulting in higher consumption. Royalton had high consumption in the beginning of the year which resulted in leaks then that have since been repaired and the water usage had gone down for a month or so and then spiked back up.

5. 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. There was a delay due to supply chain issues with valves and a valve pit. The valves have arrived and Wexcon is planning to remobilize for the water portion of this project in August. Planning is underway for the 2022/2023 project with a focus on North Union Street, East Water Street and Keystone Ave that have been highlighted and additional streets will continue to be 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 with the anticipation of draining this tank once hydrant flushing has been completed with an expectation of August 2023. This is expected to take 6-8 weeks and should be wrapped up before it gets too cold. 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.

Mr. Correll asked if the 2018/2021 projects will be completed by the end of this year.

Ms. Webb explained that is likely to be the case and that the construction for water is only 2-3 months but the paving could stretch past this year due to inclement weather.

Mr. Correll asked if the 2022/2023 project is pushed into next year would it just be 2022/2023 and 2024 that would be left for the concession to fund. Ms. Webb answered that it is correct, it was 2016/2019, 2017/2020 and the 2018/2021 are current so it would just be 2022, 2023 and 2024. Mr. Correll asked if there could be a summary as to what has been completed by linear feet by year such that it can be shown under the concession's record. Ms. Webb answered yes that can be done.



Mr. Mendinsky presented proposal plans to move the current tie-in for the water main due to the trust and landowners not permitting the mains to go through their property. The new proposed main would go down Pine Street turning onto East Roosevelt Avenue and connecting at North Union. The houses on East Roosevelt Avenue would see an increase in pressure. There would be an increase to the contract due to the additional main, as well as surveying, drawings and a permit from PennDot for North Union Street.

Mr. Joyner asked what the cost difference would be to include these 30 homes not including the lawyers compared to trying to get the easement. Mr. Mendinsky explained that it would be about \$125,000 including all the new services with the 30 homes. This would be roughly an \$80,000 increase for the straight pipe. Mr. Correll stated that in conversations with the trust there would be a lot of repairs that would need to be paid for so it's not inconceivable that the money would be made up but it could be pretty costly.

Ms. Webb stated that in the presentation from February for the 5 year CapEx plan there were some questions raised for some additional information regarding the wet well project, Mr. Mendinsky information regarding this project.

Mr. Mendinsky stated that HRG was asked to add some engineering support to the wet well project. There are a number of things that need to be addressed in this area, particularly the fine screen and washer compactor and additional safety concerns. HRG made the recommendation to make the improvements outlined in the previously obtained quotes. In addition, HRG recommended taking a further look at the ventilation equipment, as it is believed that the deterioration is due to the hydrogen sulfide attack. HRG has summarized the cost of this project to be roughly a \$760,000 construction project.

Mr. Correll asked if that includes the HVAC. Mr. Mendinsky answered that there is an allotment for that but the full investigation has not been completed yet. There is some cost allowed for that. Mr. Correll asked if DEP had asked about this area and stated that some of those pictures are pretty graphic. Ms. Webb stated that there hasn't been any direct feedback in regards to the wet well but there are definitely some safety concerns. There have been no DEP sanctioned actions.

Mr. Mendinsky stated that typically when there is a washer compactor that is out of service DEP will say to get it back in service. Ms. Webb reiterated that DEP suggests getting equipment back up and running when it goes down.

Mr. Correll stated that Mr. Klinepeter had asked for some additional information regarding the various components and the amount of effort, this was in the capital plan for approximately \$800,000. The plan moving forward is to begin this project and start ordering these items. Chances are at best maybe some mobilization and some ordering this year but the bulk of the funds will be applied next year.

6. CPI and Impact on Future Rate Increases

Mr. Sugarman explained that as of the end of June inflation has dropped considerably since the same time last year. As of the end of June, the North East CPI was 2.2%. That is the number that will be used for the index change. When added to the margin change which is 2.5% that means there will be a rate increase of at least 4.7%. That is exclusive of the capital cost recovery charge. There is quite a bit of capital work scheduled for 2023 but it is a little early at this point to predict what that will be but it is pretty clear that the increase will be less than what it was at the beginning of this year which was largely driven by an inflation number over 7%.

7. Royalton Agreement

Mr. Correll stated that to date there has not been an outreach to Royalton pending any kind of feedback and it is unknown where Mr. Winfield stands with the draft. At this juncture with extending



this yet again there needs to be contact with Royalton, the contract has been extended now at least 3 times maybe 5, the impact on Royalton isn't going to get any better.

Mr. Winfield stated that there is no objection to reaching out, the Borough doesn't have any comments but ultimately the agreement will have to be approved by the Borough.

8. Community Service

Ms. Webb stated that Veolia was a sponsor for the Middletown Arts and Crafts Fair. Veolia will be sponsoring the Frosty 5K as well in December.

9. Next Meeting

Mr. Correll suggested that the next regular meeting be held at 10 AM on September 26th, 2023.

10. Adjournment

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