

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

November 29, 2016

Present: Supervisor Gordon Kniffen
Councilman Robert Weingartner
Councilman Lewis Grubham
Councilwoman Linda Yonchuk
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.

Also Present: Oliver Blaise III, Attorney
Gayle Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John Finch Jr., Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator
Marchie Diffendorf, Planning Bd. Chairman
Duane Travis, ZBA Chairman

1. Discussion – City Line Booster Station Electrical Work/Conklin Connection. (J. Finch)

Supervisor Kniffen explained this involves an on-going discussion the Board has been having after Conklin approached Kirkwood about running a water line across the river. This progressed to the Board looking at the city line pump station that has not been used for many years, which is there for water purchases from the City of Binghamton when needed. John Finch supplied a proposal for \$6,848.00 from J&R Electric. This will provide proper lighting, heating, redoing the wiring going from the controls down to the pumps, move the electric meter from inside, etc. It would be pretty much everything except for the actual pumps themselves. It will make it so they could go in and turn the pump on manually in an emergency. As he noted before, they received a price of \$3,000 to pull both pumps and have them sent to Cortland to be taken apart to be determined if they can be rebuilt. There are no tags on the outside of the pumps so they will see if there is anything on the inside to use as a reference. He noted a quote of \$55,000 for two pumps was presented at an earlier meeting, which includes installation and everything. John noted that both pumps would not need to be replaced at the same time. Even if there was an emergency situation they can only run one pump at a time. There are two pumps there in case one fails. So they could be purchased at different times to spread out the cost. The worst case scenario if they have to replace 2 pumps would be about \$55,000 for the pumps, \$6,800 for the electrical and \$3,000 for pulling the pumps. Councilman Grubham questioned if they checked the paint. John said they have not tested for lead paint and noted there is no paint downstairs, only upstairs, but it is peeling. Councilman Grubham said they could almost do the testing themselves. He would like a worst case scenario number including the paint, which could add several thousand dollars more, and anything else. In response to Supervisor Kniffen, John Finch said there is no way to know the cost to possibly repair the pumps until they take them apart and determine that. He said he would guess about half of the cost of new pumps or possibly a little more. Councilman Grubham said the worst case could be about \$70,000 but they need to know. Supervisor Kniffen said the City is gathering some data in this regard. He noted that according to John Finch, Conklin is going to do this at their own cost and the only cost to Kirkwood would be to clear a way down to the connection. John Finch added that Tom Delamarter told him Conklin does not have the money

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

November 29, 2016

right now but they do not foresee it being an issue next year to do the whole project themselves. John said it would be nice to have the path cleared for Kirkwood as well and he got a price from Glenn Robbins of about \$5,000 to clear a path from the old Vail-Balou down to the creek. Councilman Grubham said he would like to hear final figures before they decide on this. Supervisor Kniffen responded to Councilman Diffendorf that he is willing to work with Binghamton once the cost is determined.

2. Discussion – Two Yard Bucket. (J. Finch)

John Finch provided pictures of the current bucket that is in severe disrepair. He said there are numerous cracks in it and holes in the bottom, and it needs to be replaced before it falls apart. He provided quotes for a new 2 yard bucket to replace the old one: Five Star, \$5,893.00 and Monroe Tractor, \$7,613.66. Councilman Weingartner questioned if there is a state quote. John said he will look into that, although he does not think they do just buckets. John did note another option was to get a 2 ½ yard bucket for \$4,300, but being a bigger bucket it would put more stress on the old machine. Councilman Grubham agreed that was not a good option. He said he is fine with buying a new bucket and Supervisor Kniffen noted the two bids meet the procurement policy requirement. Councilman Diffendorf questioned who JRB is on the Monroe Tractor quote. John said it is the actual manufacturer of the bucket. It's a type of bucket that has a universal locking mechanism on it, basically the type of mount. Supervisor Kniffen said a resolution will be put on the 12/6/16 agenda, but in the meantime John will check to see if there is a better price through the State.

3. Discussion – Vehicle Purchase Proposals for Highway and Water. (J. Finch)

John Finch explained that Councilman Grubham asked him to check into some type of rust protection for the trucks. Last year the highway department tried some type of spray with an oily residue but they are not actually sure how effective it is against rust. Councilman Grubham added that would have to be done every year so it is an on-going cost at about \$150 a year and John said it was about \$200 for the backhoe and the new truck in the water department last year. John said undercoating rust protection from Ziebart, 5-year 100,000 mile warranty, including door jambs, tail gates, etc. would be \$350.

Review of John Finch's proposal to purchase trucks: Transfer the truck John is driving to the highway department and put the fuel tanks on that truck, buy another truck for the water department as well as another truck for the highway department.

John Finch said they do not have a spare truck for the deputy or for a truck to go out for parts, etc. They have to take one of the 1-ton trucks or another truck if available. John plans on the deputy using the truck that will have the fuel tanks on it. Truck #37, the gray truck, is in bad shape with over 100,000 miles and electrical issues. They are going to either sell it at auction or possibly sell it themselves through a highest bidder. John said the water department needs a truck with a plow and sander because the water department doesn't have a salt spreader, they

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

November 29, 2016

have to wait for one of the town's highway trucks to be available, sometimes waiting half the day depending on the weather. With having one of the tailgate spreaders on the truck they can do all of their wells and treatment plant and help plow the post office and town buildings which will free up one of town trucks to do the roads. There is a plow on the truck Alan Glover drives and Councilman Grubham questioned why they wouldn't just put a salt spreader on that truck. John said if they get a truck with a plow on it they will have it for the life of the truck and it's always going to be used and Alan could do all the sewer stations and the other guy could do the other locations he mentioned. Councilman Grubham said it sounds to him like the water department is paying to have a truck to do the highway department's work. John said that isn't the case because the water department has its own places to maintain, although obviously it could help the highway department if needed, just like the highway department helps the water department when salt is needed. All departments work together. Councilman Grubham noted a concern if the people in the water department are buying a truck to do highway work and vice versa. Supervisor Kniffen suggested coming up with an estimate of percentages for the use in each department. Councilman Grubham said it seems to him like they will be ending up with an extra truck by buying two new trucks. John said that it is correct and it is needed. John did note that he is planning on getting rid of one army truck, noting that one has a sander on it but one shouldn't even be driven. It was noted there were will still be two trucks in the water department, but both with plows and one with a sander. Although he understands the need for two trucks, Councilman Grubham said he does not understand why they need two plows and a sander. John said it would take three to four months to get them and they are in next year's budget. Councilman Grubham said he would like to think about the truck purchase for the water department but he has no problem with purchasing a truck for the highway department. Resolution to purchase highway truck for 12/6/16.

4. Discussion – Well 3 Motor. (J. Finch)

John Finch reminded everyone that a couple of months ago they replaced the Well #3 system pump and motor with the spares that they had. They will be refurbished and put back in to be used as a spare in case the current ones go down. The price to rebuild the motor is \$5,350. It will be cleaned, the bearings will be replaced, sandblasted, etc. He noted the price to purchase a new 200 HP motor would be close to \$25,000.

5. Discussion – Well 3 Spare Pump. (J. Finch)

John Finch said it is hard to estimate what a new pump will cost because the top of the pump was custom made for the motor so someone would have to fabricate it. The estimate is about \$30,000 to \$35,000 for a new pump. He did not have all the numbers at the time the budget was put together but he put \$15,000 in for repairs, so with the cost of \$5,350 to repair the motor and \$16,950 to repair the pump they will be short by about \$6,000. John said he spoke with Jim Smith and there is money in reserve that can be used for this. Resolution for 12/6/16.

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
WORK SESSION**

November 29, 2016

6. Discussion – Revisions to Credit Card Policy. (GEK/ONB)

Supervisor Kniffen noted that a credit card policy was adopted recently and a revision will be needed. Mr. Blaise said that in subsequent discussions it was brought up that credit accounts are basically the same thing so that will be added to the policy. Resolution for 12/6/16.

7. Discussion – Assessor. (GEK)

See Executive Session below.

8. Discussion – Susquehanna River Study. (GEK)

Supervisor Kniffen explained since the 2006 flood they have been trying to get flood remediation help for the Susquehanna River Basin. During the terms of Senators Clinton and Schumer there was a \$30 million appropriation for a study which is now down to \$3 million. At least now something is happening. Supervisor Kniffen attended one of the Army Corp of Engineers meetings held last week at the Town of Chenango. The territory they are going to cover is 460 miles long, from Cooperstown to Waverly. The first step would be to conduct investigations in certain areas to see if there is anything that could be done. Once they come up with a plan they will hold a public hearing and then will have to submit that final plan to Congress. In regard to a timeline, it would start this winter by identifying problem areas and cost estimates. The public review won't be until April of 2018. In January 2019 the report will be sent to a higher authority and then to Congress. New York State and the Army Corp of Engineers will be sharing the cost 50/50. There was also some talk that if a problem was identified in a certain area the municipality might be asked by NYS to share. He does not think there is a lot to that though. The question arose if they exceed the \$3 million what would happen, and it was noted they would have to re-apply and start all over again. Nothing has started yet it will probably be 2020 or 2021 before possible approval. Although they are disappointed this isn't more they are at least pleased that something is happening.

Supervisor Kniffen explained that before the Army Corp does any remediation they do a cost benefit, which makes sense, but if the cost exceeds the benefit then they won't do it. So the question was asked why there isn't a human factor. When someone is flooded it is horrific, with people not knowing where they are going to stay, eat or even if they can get to work. They questioned if that shouldn't be a factor in addition to cost benefit, of people in harm's way. It is a possibility they would consider it.

9. Discussion – Resolution ratifying a resolution, after a Public Hearing, adopting the 2017 Water & Sewer Benefit Unit Assessment Roll, as revised, and the 2017 Water and Sewer Budget. (ONB)

Resolution for 12/6/16.

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
WORK SESSION**

November 29, 2016

10. Discussion – Changes to the Water & Sewer Rolls for Sally Shirk and Brian Whitney. (ONB)

Mr. Blaise reviewed that Sally Shirk came before the Board on Grievance Day and questioned the units assessed on property that was basically a dry storage barn with no utilities hooked up to it. He and Mr. Smith revised the assessment on her property to account for the new formula not including the dry storage barn. In regard to Brian Whitney, Mr. Blaise explained he is located in the Industrial Park so they applied the Industrial Park formula, which is a little different than assessing units based on square footage, so that resulted in a small reduction on his property. Mr. Blaise said Brian was happy with the reduction. He said the total amount to be levied does not change but the unit cost will be slightly adjusted. This will be reflected in the resolution for Item 9 above.

Councilman Grubham said the thought is there might be a few other properties that fit the same classification as the property Sally Shirk raised a concern about, so he questioned how they will be notified, since it would seem to be unfair to them since they don't even know about this. Mr. Blaise said they will be charged this year and next year he and Jim Smith will look for the other parcels and make adjustments then since there is not time to do that this year. He noted the same thing happened last year.

Supervisor Kniffen noted that next year possibly the files could be pulled ahead of time and be available to Mr. Blaise at the Grievance Day hearing.

11. Audit of Claims.

Resolution for 12/6/16.

11a. Kirkwood Hometown Christmas.

Supervisor Kniffen reported that the 2nd annual Kirkwood Hometown Christmas will be held. It is an all day celebration with a parade in the evening.

11b. Judge Weingartner Retirement Celebration.

Supervisor Kniffen reported that Judge Weingartner will be leaving office at the end of the year. On Friday, December 9th from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the Town Hall an Open House will be held for anyone to stop in and express their best wishes to Ben. Light refreshments will be served.

12. Executive Session.

Councilman Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution to adjourn this meeting to go into an Executive Session pursuant to section 105 paragraph f of the Public Officers Law to discuss a matter relating to the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation. Councilwoman Yonchuk seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.