

Water Sewer Committee Meeting

The Vergas Water/Sewer Committee met at the Vergas Government Services Center on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 9:00 am with the following members present: Natalie Fischer, Dean Haarstick, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane and Clerk- Treasurer Julie Lammers; Engineer Blaine Green, Widseth Engineering and citizen Dwight Lundgren.

Call to Order

Lammers called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

Additions and Deletions

Water System

Water System

Lundgren questioned the effect of wells being drilled along the extension of Glenn Street and on Oak Circle. Lammers stated she would provide Lundrigan with a copy of the Vergas Well Head Protection plan. Lundrigan requested sampling wells to keep record of water table.

Lead Copper Lines

Greene updated the committee regarding lead and copper lines and explained Widseth has filed the state report stating there were 125 unknown lines. Lammers stated she knew some of these lines had pictures taken and questioned the amount of known lines as city buildings were on the list and she had seen the Widseth employee take pictures of these lines. Greene stated there was a technical glitch and not all service lines were updated to the State of Mn. DuFrane questioned why Widseth was paid when the project was not completed and the information they provided to the State was incorrect. The committee asked Greene to provide update to Lammers by December 31, 2024 for this project.

2024 Projects

Sewer Projects

DuFrane stated the main sewer pump will need to be replaced soon. The number 1 pump has a 1 hour run time while our other pumps have a 2.3-7 hour run time. The cost to replace the main lift station pump in 2012 was \$13,819.40 and DuFrane estimated the cost to be around \$24,000.00. The lift station on County Road 4 and 60 has been hit a couple of times and will at some point need to be replaced. The committee suggested putting up protective casings around the lift station. The cost of replacing is around \$13,000. Requested \$37,000 for sewer improvements.

Water Projects

DuFrane stated the need for a fence around the water treatment plant. The average cost of a 6-foot fence is \$20 per square foot. DuFrane recommended fence around the whole city parcel. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has a \$10,000 grant the city can apply for, and this is included in the Vergas Well Head Protection Plan. The fence around the shop would need to come from the general fund budget and be discussed with the Streets/Sidewalk/Yard Waste committee. The committee recommended a fence around the water treatment area and applying for the MPCA grant. DuFrane will provide a quote to Lammers for her to apply for grant.

DuFrane stated he knew of no other projects in 2025.

Budgets

Sewer Budget

Lammers reviewed the proposed sewer budget and recommended a 25 cent per 1,000 increase to the sewer rate.

The committee recommends approving the 25-cent increase and approving the proposed budget.

Water Budget

Lammers reviewed the proposed water budget and recommended a \$3 increase to the base water rate.

The committee recommends approving the \$3 increase and approving the proposed budget.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Julie Lammers, CMC

City Clerk-Treasurer

City of Vergas

Follow up actions:

Greene to provide Lammers with lead copper lines information by December 31, 2024.

DuFrane to provide quote for fence and Lammers to apply for MPCA grant.

Recommendations to Council:

Approve installing fence around water plant and applying for MPCA grant.

Approve water and sewer rate increases.

Approve proposed water and sewer budgets.