



## City of Pataskala Utility Department Chris Sharrock, Utility Director

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### ➤ Utility Department Updates

#### • Resolution

- **Resolution 2019-070**- A resolution authorizing and directing the City Administrator to execute a contract with Hull & Associates, Inc. for the bidding, construction administration, and construction observation of the water reclamation facility upgrade project.
  - This resolution is to authorize an agreement between Hull and the City for the next step of the WRF upgrade process. The OEPA is requiring this agreement as part of their review process for the WRF upgrade construction loan application
  - The amount of \$97,020 matches the proposed amount for this step in the process quoted by Hull at the beginning of this project, thereby keeping us on budget to this point with the project overall.

#### • Water Reclamation Facility

- Daily Operations
  - The operators maintain exceptional daily operations of the WRF, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of turning the City's wastewater into clean, safe water that is discharged into the South Fork of the Licking River
- WRF Upgrade
  - Design currently being worked on by Hull
    - A design meeting took place on April 29 between Hull, Prime, Fluidyne and the Department
      - Questions about the need for blowers to use on the Jet Aerations system were answered
      - Oxidation Ditch walls to be increased in size, adding more capacity to the Oxidation Ditch
  - Design completion and PTI submittal to the EPA was completed on July 12
  - The construction loan application paperwork has begun with an estimate being used for the cost until the bidding process occurs to keep the process moving forward

- The upgrade was re-nominated to the OEPA for next year's financial assistance program should the review process by the OEPA take longer than anticipated, possibly causing the loan award date to be pushed into 2020
  - The OEPA financial manager assigned to the loan is retiring and will be handing the review over to a new manager
  - The rep reviewing our loan application for the environmental planning review has also left the agency. We now have two new people reviewing our application. I do not believe it will be possible to meet the December 2019 award date. We will probably be more likely to meet a February 2020 award date
- Biosolids
  - Agrisludge has completed the fall land application for 2019
    - Agrisludge hauled 365 wet tons of product to the field and applied that product in accordance with OEPA guidelines. They also tracked all of the required parameters for the land application process.
    - Next year, the department will work to bring the land application process back in house.
      - I am strongly considering still using Agrisludge for the hauling process, as they are much more efficient at this than we are due to the size of their trucks. What used to take us two weeks to haul, they can accomplish in a day and a half
- Continuous Monitoring
  - Ryan Brown is currently getting estimates to add continuous monitoring equipment for a couple of parameters that we do not currently monitor at the WRF
    - Continuously monitoring these parameters (even though they are not required by our permit) would qualify us for a staffing reduction of up to 15 hours a week (currently we are required to staff the WRF for 40 hours a week)
- **Water Treatment Plants**
  - Daily Operations

- The operators maintain exceptional daily operations of both Water Treatment Plants, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of providing the City's customers clean, safe water that meets or exceeds the requirements from the OEPA.
    - Painting
      - Operators are continuing the process of painting the pipes inside of WTP1 as part of the plant's routine maintenance
    - Backflow Device Testing
      - All of the backflow devices owned by the Utility Department were tested by our contractor on Oct 21, keeping them in compliance with the required annual inspections
    - WTP2 wastewater
      - We are currently looking into the cost involved to take the wastewater generated during the water treatment process at WTP2 to the District
        - This would allow us to eliminate an entire permit and all the sampling, monitoring and man-hours associated with it, should the costs of construction and sewer service from the District warrant it
- **Distribution and Collection System**
  - Daily Operations
    - The systems team maintains exceptional daily operations of the entire distribution and collections system, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of providing customer service to the residents, maintaining the city's infrastructure and responding to emergencies of various types.
  - Lift Station Fencing
    - We are scheduling installation of the lift station fencing with Trudeau's Fencing Company, as was approved by Resolution 2019-066
      - This work is anticipated to be completed soon
  - SL-RAT
    - The systems team is continuing to use the SL-RAT system to inspect the sanitary sewer mains for blockages
      - This system uses sound waves sent from one manhole and received at the downstream manhole to determine how clear the line is between them

- This will allow the department to quickly inspect sewer lines and decide which lines need thoroughly cleaned and which lines do not
  - Valve Exercising
    - The systems team is continuing the annual valve exercising program
      - This process involves an employee traveling to each and every main valve in the Distribution system, locating said valve, closing the valve completely and finally re-opening the valve completely
      - Valve exercising keeps our valves in good operating condition and prevents them from seizing up. It also minimizes the chances that the valves will fail when needed in an emergency situation
      - The goal of the Utility Department is to exercise half of the distribution system every year
  - Leaks
    - 317 Donerail
      - Saddle failed. Crew replaced saddle with stainless steel and service line with plastic on 10-22-19
  - Beechwood Trails Water Towers
    - A representative from SUEZ took paint samples to be analyzed by their lab as well as performed an “adhesion test”
      - These tests are being done free of charge in order to better understand the condition of the exterior coatings on the water towers so that an efficient prioritization of coating replacement can be developed
- **Billing Team**
  - Daily Operations
    - The billing team does an exceptional job of processing the payments for water and sewer service, scheduling the service work that needs done as well as providing excellent customer service 8 hours a day, 5 days a week.
  - Turn-Offs
    - The department conducted the monthly round of turn-offs for non-payment on Oct 22
- **Training**

- Class 1 Water Supply License
    - Trent Howell, John Burr and Connor Johnson have begun the OTCO Class 1 Water Course. Classes are every Monday for 14 weeks starting on September 9
  - Class 3 Water Supply License
    - Ryan Brown is currently taking the American Water College Class 3 Water Supply correspondence course
  - Class 2 Wastewater Treatment License
    - I have begun the American Water College Class 2 Wastewater Treatment correspondence course
  - Pump and Electrical Training
    - The operators and the systems teams will be attending training related to water/wastewater pump troubleshooting and water/wastewater pump electrical troubleshooting December 10-12
  - OAWWA Utility Billing Training
    - Stephanie Tallman and Danielle McGee will be attending a one day training session reviewing Utility Billing practices and discussing new techniques/ technologies on Dec 6
  
- **Director**
  - Water and Sewer Contract
    - There have been discussions of possible service areas to trade between the City and the District that would allow the City to serve Fanin & Deagle for both water and sanitary services while allowing the District to serve several locations currently in the City's service area
      - A resolution was passed at the Special Council Meeting on Friday September 6 approving a contract between the City and the District
        - The District has reviewed this contract and has suggested some changes be made. Talks regarding those changes are still ongoing.
      - On October 8, The District passed a version of the contract that has different language in it when compared to the version passed by Council
  - Construction Projects
    - Scenic View Estates
      - The City has reviewed multiple approaches to providing sanitary service to this property. The developer wishes to install a private force main system. The Department is weary of the potential for the OEPA to require the City to

assume responsibility for this system in the future, should the HOA/ private parties fail to maintain it.

- The Utility Committee created a list of concerns that they would like to see addressed in order for the pressurized sewer system to be acceptable
  - Scott Fulton and I have drafted the necessary language to ensure that these concerns are addressed. This language was reviewed by Brian Zets and was presented to the Utility Committee on Oct 21
  - The language was accepted by the Utility Committee and presented to the developer. The developer has no issue with any of the language.
- Hazlewood-Barrington Ridge waterline loop
  - The waterline loop connecting Hazlewood and Barrington Ridge is underway
    - This loop will allow us to feed Barrington Ridge from Hazlewood, lowering the PSI for Barrington Ridge
      - Barrington Ridge is the only development fed directly from the Booster Station along Broad Street that does not have a community Pressure Reducing Valve and as such has very high water pressure.
    - The loop was completed on Oct 25. Once all testing is complete, we will open the waterline loop and evaluate the effectiveness of lowering the pressure in Barrington Ridge while not negatively affecting the pressure in Hazlewood
- Construction Specifications and Drawings
  - A review was done to update our Construction Specs and Drawings so that they will reflect our current standards
    - Hull has updated and the new specifications and drawings were presented to the Utility Committee at the Utility Committee meeting on Oct 21
      - The Utility Committee has requested more time for review and will again consider the changes made at the next Utility Committee meeting
- I & I water
  - The EPA has included a requirement to develop and implement a plan to address our I & I water getting into the collections system

- I have advertised the RFQ for the design of a plan and the eventual implementation of that plan at a pace decided by available budget beginning on June 2 and June 9 in the Advocate and posted the request on the City Website
  - 6 Submittals were received by the deadline of June 21 at 4pm. A panel of staff members will review the submittals and will select a firm to begin price negotiations with in the following weeks
    - Strand Associates Inc. was selected
      - The City and Strand were unable to come to an agreement on a price. In accordance with the ORC, we have contacted our second highest ranked firm, GPD Group, to begin the price negotiating process with them.
    - GPD Group is currently working on creating a scope and price for services to be reviewed by the department
      - The OEPA has issued the final NPDES permit for the WRF. The language regarding the I&I program has accepted nearly every request that was made on behalf of the city.
      - GPD group has provided a scope and price for their services. We are currently evaluating this proposal
  - Newark Water Treatment Plant Tour
    - Trent Howell set up a tour of the water treatment plant in Newark for the entire field staff
      - This plant is a surface water plant that uses Lime softening. These are treatment techniques that are covered in the Operator License exam, but not techniques that the crew has experience with. This tour is a great opportunity to expand the overall water treatment knowledge of the department at no cost
  - GIS Training
    - We have scheduled four training days with Hull and the Systems Team to update the Old Town portion of our GIS map

- This training will show the Systems Team how to update the map from the field. This will allow us to do a large portion of the GIS map updating in-house
  - Hull is also training the Directors to edit the GIS map
- Safety Program
  - The department requires two safety meetings each month
    - One is done at the team level by the Superintendents covering general safety issues
    - The second is done with the entire staff and focuses on practice exercises of the Water Contingency Plan
      - Each month, a different member of the department will lead this training
- SWL Water Plant Open House
  - I attended the SWL open house for their new RO water plant

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