

Water Committee Minutes

Mar, 26, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Chairman Stephen Eyrich.

Present were committee members Bob Porth and Kellie Ferrell. Mayor Jeff Wise, John and Sean McBride from ERH, Dan Clifton and Jonathan Cox, representing David Cox Law Firm and Narendra Patel representing Fehr-Graham Engineering. A Zoom session was opened for the public but no one connected.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the path forward which the city intends to pursue in seeking funding for the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade. The changes are mandated by the U.S. and Illinois Environmental Protection Agencies.

The representatives from David Cox Law are looking into loan/grant funding from USDA. They stated they think we have a good chance of securing loan/grant funding in the amount of \$28,000,000 of which \$960,000 would be their fee. This fee would also cover all legal issues and total control over the management of the project. There is no guarantee of how much would be grant and how much would be loan. They are hoping for 80% grant, 20% loan. Cox is also wanting us to sign the contract with them within three days.

Mr. Patel questioned as to why they are seeking USDA funding. Fehr-Graham has been seeking funding from the IEPA. To this point Fehr-Graham has been taking the lead and managing the entire upgrade project. The cost of using Fehr-Graham Engineering has already been contracted and will be considerably less money.

Mayor Wise advised that he will consult with our city attorney concerning the proposed contract with Cox Law.

The Committee took no action pending Mayor Wise conferring with our attorney.

No other old or new business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Stephen Eyrich