

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
VILLAGE OF MANTUA, OHIO

February 8th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Linda Clark called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

ROLL CALL: Giles Seith, Paula Tubalkain, Ben Prescott, Marty Hura, Paul Janson, John Clark

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Linda Clark, Clerk-Treasurer Jenny August, Village Solicitor Michele Stuck, Village Administrator Bruce Rininger, Administrative Assistant Chelsea Gregor, Police Chief Harry Buchert, Village Engineer Rich Iafelice.

CITIZENS: None

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION:

The Utility Rate Study and Management of the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants:

Mayor Clark said the reason that Council had C.T. Consultants prepare a utility rate study was because the water and sewer enterprise funds should be self-supporting, but the General Fund has to supplement these funds every year. She turned the meeting over to Rich to explain the study. Rich wanted to be clear that this analysis is for planning purposes only, not to adjust the rates.

He began by summarizing the village's water distribution system and water treatment plant. There are 4 miles of 6" pipes that are 80 to 100 years old and should be replaced within the next ten years, and there are 2.5 miles of 8" pipes that are 20 years old or less. The water plant is 20 years old. The plant was built at a cost of \$1,600,000 in 1996. The cost to build the same plant today is \$3,000,000. In order to maintain what we have, that cost to the village is \$180,000 per year. To begin replacement of pipes, and save for upgrades to the plant, the village will need to save \$325,000 annually. This totals approximately ½ million dollars per year.

Regarding the wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant, there are about 5 miles of pipes that are 80-100 years old. 75% of the pipes can be rehabilitated but 25% need replaced. The wastewater treatment plant is 16 years old and cost the village \$4,500,000. To build this plant today would cost \$7,700,000. Annual maintenance costs should be about \$220,000 per year. To begin replacement of pipes, and save for upgrades to the plant, the village will need to save \$515,000 annually. This totals approximately 3/4 million dollars per year.

The analysis included several options for Council to consider that all involved rate increases over different time spans. The other option Rich offered would be to turn the plants over to the county. They have a larger customer base to support these costs.

Paul said that when the wastewater plant was built, Council had discussed raising water rates 3% annually and raising sewer rates 5% annually. If that had happened we would not be in the situation we are facing now. Giles said that if the village had raised the rates like that, we may have lost our big business customers.

Paula said in her opinion, our biggest problem is that we have neglected the infrastructure. Ben recommends sending it back to Service.

❖ Motion to adjourn at 7:12 by Ben Prescott, with a second by Paul Janson. All ayes on vote.

Mayor Linda Clark

Jenny August, Clerk-Treasurer