Berea Utility Advisory Board

Minutes for October 15, 2019

BMU Conference Room

Present: Josh Bills, Diane Zekind, Rodney Short, and Steve Wilkins

Staff Present: Kevin Howard, Josh Gabbard, Adrian Isaacs & Terri Brumley

1. Minutes for October 9, 2019 meeting were approved.
2. Kevin reviewed his presentation to the Berea City Council.
3. Sewer rates from 1960 to present have only increased 40%.
4. We are currently pumping 60% of our daily water usage from Cowbell Lake.
5. We have a 15% to 16% water loss through water leaks (this is drastically lower than previous years; however, we would like to steadily maintain < 15%.
6. The presentation is on the City of Berea Facebook page.

3. BUAB will give a presentation to Mayor Fraley and the City Council on December 3, 2019.

 a. Josh Bills will begin work on the presentation.

 b. Areas to cover include:

 Energy efficiency

 Explanation of what “Peak” is and how it affects energy usage

 Ways to reduce Peak Demand

4. Rate Study Timeline – Kevin wants to go through winter months on the new

 Purchase Power contract before looking at a Rate Study. We will be sending out Request for Qualifications for interested parties to provide our rate study. This will be by the end of 2019 or beginning of 2020.

5. Utility Updates:

 a. **B-Lake Reservoir:** The Bonding Company accepted the bid from Sturgeon

 Creek Contracting. The crew began work on September 24th and completed

 the work on October 14th. Bell Engineering will be onsite for a final

 inspection on October 15th.

1. **HWY 1016 Sewer Line Extension:** Clay Pipeline has now completed the project. Bell Engineering will be onsite October 14th for final inspection. Customer connections will be allowed as soon as the final inspection has been completed.

1. **Owsley Fork Reservoir**: 30% Design Phase Review meeting with Schnabel, Bell Engineering, NRCS, and City of Berea officials was held last week. Some minor changes to design was suggested by NRCS. Project is on schedule for 100% design completion July 2020.

1. **Walnut Meadow/ Central Park Sewer Project:** Design is completed, all easements and permits have been granted. CDBG Grant ($950K) was approved and signatures have been obtained. We have repurposed ~$425K of KIA grant money for this project. Design has been completed and delivered to KYDOW for review. We expect approval in the next couple of weeks with project going to bid shortly after approval.

1. **HOSPITAL CIRCUIT 4KV-12KV CONVERSION:** BMU is currently working with hospital administration on the planning and scheduling of converting this circuit to 12KV. Project has delayed since administrative personnel we were working with has transferred. We still hope to complete project during 2019.
2. Our water/sewer crew is currently working on sewer line cleaning and camera inspections of our creek crossings and problematic areas and water valve exercising.
3. Tree trimming bids were opened in September Council Meeting. Substantial increase in span price was submitted. BMU will reject the single bid received and will look at amending contract duration and terms. The work will re-bid in November.

1. Current staffing is sufficient with the exception of one opening for a Journeyman Lineman. This position is posted, and we are evaluating applicants as they apply. The position will remain posted until filled.
2. Wholesale Water Rate Increase has been posted by KyPSC. We are near the end of the comment period. Without objections from SMWD and/or GCWA, the new rates will appear on the billing cycle due January 10th, 2020.