

Committee Meeting Notice
Sylvania City Council

Utilities & Environment Committee
Thursday, July 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

The Utilities & Environment Committee will meet on Thursday, July 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers, located in the Police and Council Building, 6635 Maplewood Avenue, Sylvania, Ohio 43560, to discuss a proposed water study and any other business the committee members vote to discuss.

Committee Report
Utilities & Environment Committee
Sylvania City Council

July 2nd, 2015

8:30 am

Prepared by: Jason Mishka

A meeting of the Utilities & Environment Committee, of the Sylvania City Council took place at 8:30 am, on July 2nd, 2015, in Council Chambers.

Committee members present were:

Mr. Frye

Mrs. Husman

And Mrs. Westphal

Along with Mayor Stough

Also joining from council were:

Mrs. Cappellini

Mr. Haynam

And Mr. Luetke

Along with members from the administration:

Mrs. Brinning

And Mr. Aller

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed water study. The goal of the study is to update the previous study and estimate project costs and water rates for different options including, a standalone system, a regional water system, and the costs of continuing to purchase from the City of Toledo.

Mr. Aller explained that two firms presented their qualifications and that he felt that Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTC&H) was the most qualified. FTC&H plans to do all of their work in house with the exception of an external rate consultant.

The budgeted amount for the study is \$50,000. However, Mr. Aller believes that that is unlikely to be a sufficient amount because the scope of work is larger than what was originally expected. The fee for the study is likely to come in around \$100,000 to \$115,000. Mr. Aller is trying to negotiate a rate under \$100,000 if at all possible.

Mr. Aller added that several communities have indicated their interest and desire to participate in the regional water system and some of them have offered to provide funding for the study.

Committee member, Mrs. Westphal asked if there was way to spread the cost of the study over two budget cycles and it seems this may be a possibility. She also indicated that she felt that the quality of the study is important and that she would hesitate to reduce the cost if that means the study is less comprehensive.

Mr. Luteke stated that the City of Sylvania has taken on leadership role in terms of creating a regional water authority and that we should make sure that the final study is as complete as possible. He also asked how the City of Toledo has responded to the discussion. Mayor Stough reported that members of the Toledo City Council and members of that administration appear to be individually split on the topic and that there isn't a unified response. However, there is some renewed interested with the new Mayor of Toledo.

Mayor Stough continued by saying that two water systems, not connected, for reasons based on price, is not the correct approach. The correct approach is one that has redundancy for the region. He also mentioned that there are other studies going on in the region.

Committee member, Mr. Frye asked since the major cost of the project is the intake, then was the First Energy intake being considered part of the scope. Mr. Aller said that it currently was not but that it could be. Mr. Frye asked if the recent referral from the Finance Committee, about the water fund, to the Utilities & Environment Committee, was part of the scope. Mr. Aller and Mr. Mishka stated that they were separate and that the fund and rate question, would be addressed once there is more information from the City of Toledo about further increases. This ultimately needs to be addressed by the end of the budget cycle. Mr. Frye also recommended that we get a firm commitment out of the communities that are willing to participate beyond offering to help with the cost of the study.

Committee member Mrs. Husman agreed that we should get the best study that we can.

Committee member Mrs. Westphal made a motion to request that the administration finalize the contract with FTC&H, and prepare a recommendation for council at the July 2nd regular council meeting.

Committee member Mrs. Husman seconded.

The motion passed.

Mr. Haynam asked for copies of the proposal and Mr. Aller offered to provide them.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.