

CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2009, 5:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Special Meeting was called to order by President Tom Martinbianco at 5:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Conley, Ellenburg, Haskins, Heffner, Martinbianco, Tinnin and Zelenko.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor C. Smiley; G. Kray, DPW Director and G. Webster, City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion and possible action regarding the following:

An agreement with Genesee County Drain Commission for the design engineering proposal on the Fenton Road Watermain Extension Project, to be done in conjunction with Flint Township. City of Burton cost not to exceed \$23,450.00.

Transfer of funds in the amount of \$23,450.00 from Water Unappropriated Surplus to Fenton Road Watermain Extension Project.

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Smiley indicated that Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commission and John O'Brien, Genesee County Director of Water and Waster Services were present to discuss the Fenton Road Watermain Extension Project. The City would be entering into an agreement with the County for Kraft to do the engineering design work. The County would be administering the contract. This project would be done in conjunction with Flint Township.

Mr. Wright said the Fenton Rd. project has been discussed for several years. We should make this a necessary project because Federal or State dollars will be available. Burton has a high density housing area with wells containing high levels of arsenic. Flint Township has several residential streets with arsenic problems in their wells. This would resolve both issues. Mr. Wright indicated that Kraft engineering has been involved with this project in the past. Therefore, he preferred to keep them on the project. The City and Township need to realize that the waterline should be built at some point. If we can get State and Federal money to do this project, it would be beneficial to everyone involved. He did not know how much of the project would be funded. He hoped it would cover most of the costs. The County will be applying for other projects, as well. He said the State would like to eliminate community wells that do not have arsenic removal systems.

Mr. O'Brien said the stimulus package contains \$8.4 billion for water and sewer improvements in the Clean Water Act. It is estimated that \$300,000 will come to the Michigan. Fifty percent of that money has to be given out in grants, with no State or local match. To apply for this funding, projects have to be shovel ready. The designs have to be completed and permits obtained. Then all you have to do is collect bids, hire a contractor and sign the agreement. That locks in the money. If you apply for the grant and the project is not ready, you loose the money and would not be able to reapply. It is very important to only present shovel ready projects.

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The DEQ has contacted the County in reference to this project. They wanted us to make sure the project was shovel ready. Kraft Engineering was contacted to make sure the design work could be completed within 45 days so we could submit an application. Then we could get the DEQ permit. When the stimulus package is released, we could assure them the project is shovel ready. Then it becomes eligible for consideration. The proposed agreement only commits to the design work, not construction. The cost of the design work would be shared equally with Flint Township. The City's portion would be \$23,450. Flint Township will be taking action on this project February 2nd.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh St., wanted to know if the County had a resolution from Flint Township committing to the project. She understood the proposal had to be submitted, however she was concerned there was nothing in writing from Flint Township. She referenced the Metropolitan Alliance and our wish list for road and bridge repair projects.

Mr. Martinbianco said the design work would not be done unless Flint Township agreed to contribute their portion. It was his understanding that we needed to begin the design process so we could submit the project. There are other projects through Metro Alliance that will be considered. Hopefully, they will be fast tracked as well, especially with the transportation component of the stimulus package. In reference to the water project, he felt there was a lot of potential for future growth in the Fenton Rd college district.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Wright indicated that the Governor was taking recommendations from state departments on what projects should be funded with the stimulus money. The DEQ indicated that they would like to fund at least a portion of this particular project. Mr. Wright didn't feel there was a problem with the planned time frame. In addition, there will be a second submittal period. More project money will be released in 120 days. He indicated that Flint Township seemed very excited about entering into this project in conjunction with Burton. The contract would not go forward without approval from both municipalities. Mr. Wright indicated that the County does not have funds available for these types of projects. He has worked for two years to create a partnership between Flint Township and the City of Burton in the hopes of moving this project forward.

Mrs. Tinnin indicated the major hold up on the Fenton Road waterline was due to the fact that Enterprise did not sign the agreement. This would have provided a lot of money for tap-in and front foot fees. Mr. Stein has refused thus far to advance us the money for the waterline. Without the grant money, she would not be interested in the City funding this project. She is not prepared to use unappropriated water funds that would only benefit the mobile home park, Fifth Third Bank and Baker College. Mr. Wright felt the waterline would service a much larger area than she described. Mrs. Tinnin said when water fees are increasing, it is hard to justify to residents that the City is putting a line down Fenton Rd. and no one will be responsible for paying for it.

Mr. Martinbianco didn't agree with Mrs. Tinnin's comments. He said the water rates are generated from Detroit and passed through Flint to Genesee County. It is not due to water projects. Mr. Martinbianco said the Fifth Third Bank is on Saginaw St. not Fenton Rd. He spoke on the possibility of looping lines from Fenton/Bristol Rd all the way to Fenton/Maple Rd., which would be a logical sequence. There has been discussion of fire suppression deficits in that area. He said she could make a lot of assertions relative to where you think the lines should go and if it has ultimate City value. The bottom line is even if both communities pay their share of the engineering, and Genesee County oversees the project, like they have done in the past, we are going to be the beneficiary when we install the master meters. Currently, Mr. Stein will be the largest consumer of the municipal water on Fenton Rd. This might even contribute to more water expansion in the future.

Mrs. Tinnin had not seen the Water Liability Study. Many areas, including the north end, have old water and sewer lines. If grant money were available for a second phase, the study would help determine our need. We need to establish our priorities. She felt this was a good opportunity. However, it was the only feasible way to build the waterline. She said there weren't extra funds in the unappropriated surplus to complete a \$500,000 project, without some kind of help.

Mr. Martinbianco asked for clarification on the water study. He would like this information by the next meeting. The Mayor did not know the status of the study. It could be discussed at the Audit Meeting.

Mr. Haskins supported the watermain project. He grew up in the area and knows the water quality is not good. He appreciated the fact that the DEQ and the County were involved with us obtaining the grant money. This is a perfect opportunity for the City. With better infrastructure in place, there is more possibility for future growth. He said this is the first outcome from our new president. He hoped other things would turn around.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Mrs. Conley was not available for Council Action.

Ellenburg moved and Zelenko seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with Genesee County drain Commission for the design engineering proposal on the Fenton Road Watermain Extension Project, to be done in conjunction with Flint Township. City of Burton cost not to exceed \$23,450.00.

Motion carried 6-0.

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Ellenburg moved and Heffner seconded the following motion:

2. Approve and authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$23,450.00 from Water Unappropriated Surplus to Fenton Road Watermain Extension Project.
- Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Gayle K. Webster, CMC
City Clerk