

Minutes of the Public Works Advisory Committee
11/21/2011 at the Tracy Memorial

Edgar Acevedo brought the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Committee Members Present: Jim Simmons (co-chair), Rusty Vazac, Jim Klingler, Steve Campbell.

Also in attendance: Village Board Trustee- George Grant and DPW Supervisor- Chris Sperl.

The minutes of 10/17/2011 were approved. Edgar Acevedo making a motion to approve and Jim Klingler seconding the motion.

The proposed agenda was approved , Steve Campbell making the motion to approve which was seconded by Jim Simmons.

A discussion about leaf pick-up in the village included questions about the expense and need of the operation. The amount of man hours dedicated to the process and cost of equipment brought about a statement from Steve Campbell that maybe doing away with this service should be looked at more closely as a way to cut expenses for the village. On a scale compared to sewer & water system concerns and other maintenance, leaf removal does not seem as high a priority and may have the least negative effect on the village if it were discontinued. It may be necessary to prioritize services as the village budget changes and this service may be dispensable.

Jim Klingler spoke with the Columbia County Health Department and found that they don't have any knowledge of impending regulations regarding covering open reservoirs. Because continuous chlorination is used in the village there seems to be no great concern over the contamination of that part of the water supply system.

George and Chris estimated leakage costs to be around \$8 or \$9 per month. Because of these findings, it seems the reservoir is not a priority for repairs.

When asked what should be done regarding the water tower, Chris stated that the village should get back on a regular maintenance schedule after sand blasting and painting the outside and sealing the inside. Once again George recommended installing a circulating pipe inside the tower to improve water quality.

The subject of water delivery brought forth the comments that Woodbridge Ave and the Fairgrounds are the priorities for future improvements.

It was recommended that the Town of Ghent establish itself as a water district to better cope with the inevitable repairs to water lines that will be needed in the near future. If this doesn't happen it will cause problems between the Village of Chatham and the Town of Ghent and those residents relying on water delivery in Ghent from Chatham.

Outsourcing does not seem to be a viable option at this time as our neighboring towns and the county and state all seem to be having a difficult time performing their own duties without taking on any others from the village.

Continuing to monitor leakage into the sewer system seems to be the most important thing at this point. Sump pumps emptying into the system, and leaking sewer mains (which allow ground water to leak into the system) are causing the biggest problems according to George and Chris. They also stated that some manholes need to be replaced because of extreme leakage. These cost approximately \$12,000-\$14,000 each to replace.

Rusty Vazac wondered if there may be a possibility to establish a fund to allow residents low cost loans to repair their leaking sewer lines (from their residence to the village main lines).

Right now the residents don't have any incentive to repair lines as the village would have to prove that there are leaks that are causing water to flow into the sewer system.

The next meeting has been scheduled for 12/19/2011 at 7PM at the Tracy Memorial.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 with Rusty Vazac making the motion to adjourn and Jim Simmons seconding the motion.