CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE
Tuesday, September 13, 2011 – 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Alds. Berdan, Causier, Donegan, Ewerdt, Hanson, McBride (8:05 p.m.), Wilson, Walsh -8

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Archambo, City Administrator; Mr. Porter, Public Works Director; Mr. Wehrley, City Engineer; Ms. Aldana, Asst. City Attorney/HR Director; Ms. Miller-Carter, Asst. City Attorney

Ald. Walsh in the Chair

Proposed Ordinance Repealing Chapter 2.80 Pertaining to the Citizens' Advisory Capital Improvements Committee. Referred from Council was a proposed ordinance repealing Chapter 2.80 of the municipal code pertaining to the Citizens' Advisory Capital Improvements Committee.

It was moved by Ald. Donegan, seconded by Ald. Wilson to recommend adoption of the foregoing ordinance dissolving the Committee. -7

Health Insurance Stop Loss Contract and Health Insurance Claims Administration Contract. The Chair reviewed a September 12, 2011 memo from Ms. Aldana, Asst. City Attorney/HR Director, recommending renewal of the health insurance stop loss contract with Symetra effective October 1, 2011 in the amount of $888,374, and further recommending renewal of the health insurance claims administration contract with UHC effective October 1, 2011 in the amount of $332,185.68.

Ms. Aldana explained that the City self-insures up to $75,000 and buys insurance for claims above that amount. The stop loss contract is marketed annually; only a few vendors submitted competitive quotes this year and the best one received was from the current vendor. It represents a 10% increase over last year due to the number of individual high claimants and the amounts of those claims.

The City's claims administrator is United Health Care (UHC) and has been for some years. Staff was able to negotiate a 0% increase on the administrative contract with UHC for next year. However, because all employees will now be under the Choice Plus HRA plan, and because this plan has a higher administrative fee than the other plans, there will be an increase of $27,830.40 to the administrative costs.

It was moved by Ald. Donegan, seconded by Ald. Ewerdt to recommend approval of the renewal of the stop loss contract with Symetra for $883,374, and renewal of the claims administration contract with UHC for $332,185.68. -7

(Ald. McBride present 8:10 p.m.) -8

Claims: Jason Mielcarek, 3645 N. 93rd Street and Jason/Sara McEvilly, 5408 W. Wells Street. The Committee reviewed memos from Asst. City Attorney Carter recommending denial of the two aforementioned claims. With the Mielcarek claim, findings indicate that no liability exists on the part of the City. With the McEvilly claim, the claim was not filed within 120 days of the event.

It was moved by Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Berdan
to recommend denial of both claims. -8

Presentation by Brown & Caldwell, Inc., Regarding Flood Mitigation Options on the East Side of the City. Mr. Porter introduced Messrs. David Perry and David Bennett of Brown & Caldwell, Inc., stating that the firm was hired to study basement flooding problems, report the findings, and develop strategies for mitigating the flooding issues. This is the third step in a six-step process.

Mr. Bennett explained that five sewersheds (WA4001, 4002 and 4035 in Wauwatosa, and MI4067 and MI4075 in Milwaukee) were studied. Sewersheds are collections of sewer pipes draining to a particular point. These sewersheds comprise Metershed MS0411, which drains into the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) system. Seventy-nine percent of the study area (comprising 838 acres) is in Wauwatosa; the remainder is in Milwaukee. A total of 5,000 households – and 14,000 feet of sewer pipes - are involved.

This area was identified for study because of repeated basement backups and a failure to meet MMSD performance standards. The intent is to identify remedies that will enable compliance with MMSD performance standards for a 5-year recurrent event, protect basements from sewer backups in extreme wet weather events, and correct existing structural defects.

(Ald. McBride excused 8:17 p.m.) -7

Mr. Bennett stated that data monitoring was conducted last summer; it was helpful that several significant rain events occurred in the summer of 2010. Models were created and evaluated. The existing systems were studied for performance. Additionally, the dye testing that the City performed provided additional valuable data.

Mr. Perry stated that flow monitoring was conducted at the end of Martha Washington Drive and Martin Drive, where local sewers connect with a 96-inch MMSD sewer. MMSD has a flow meter at this connection point. Another seven flow meters were installed last summer to help determine how well the existing system operates.

Three significant rain events were then discussed – July 7, 2010, July 15, 2010, and July 23, 2010. Rainfall amounts for those storms (as measured at city hall in inches/hour) were, respectively, just under two inches, about two and one-half inches, and nearly four inches. These events created the subsequent flow in the sewers. Typically, the flow (in *cfs*, or cubic feet per second) on a rainy day may increase 4-7 times.

In the case of the aforementioned storm events, however, the *cfs* flow for the storms, again respectively, were just over 20 *cfs*, and twice, nearly 50 *cfs*. Clearly, these spikes demonstrate that the system is not functioning as designed. Too much rain water is being captured and carried by the sanitary sewer system. The *cfs* flow should not go beyond 24 for a 5-year recurring event; two of the three July 2010 storms were greater than 5-year events. Mr. Perry pointed out that the flow could have doubled, except that some of the water ended up in residents' basements.

In response to a query, Mr. Perry confirmed that the flow numbers were not caused by any back-flow from the MMSD pipe, as the City's system is laid higher than is MMSD's system. Once MMSD's system is surcharged, it will spill into the river; Wauwatosa's system is above the river.

Mr. Perry asked the Committee to keep in mind that there are system size limits to consider when contemplating corrective action. Even the best conceived and constructed system can't protect everyone every time.

Mr. Perry then identified the sources of the clear water finding its way to the sanitary system. Rain can leak into manholes. The public sewer pipes may leak, allowing ground water to seep into the pipes. Often, private laterals can leak. Houses built before 1954 may have foundation drains connected to the sanitary sewer system (an acceptable practice many, many years ago). A three-gallon-per-minute leak is relatively minor, until it is multiplied by the number of homes in a metershed. If just one percent of homes in an area have a foundation drain connection to a sanitary sewer, problems will be created.

Supported by data in Milwaukee County and country-wide, 34% is about average for lateral leaks; public/private efforts to correct flooding problems, then, seem to be in order.

(Ald. McBride present 8:40 p.m.) -8

The dye water testing conducted by another consultant for the City occurred in the public right-of-way on selected streets having storm sewers and catch basins. The dye can show water leaking into the soil, then into a lateral, and finally, into a sanitary sewer. To date, dye testing has not occurred on that portion of laterals on private property; nevertheless, the testing that was conducted yielded valuable data. Dye testing is only conducted on the side of the street where the storm sewer is laid. Additionally, not all streets have storm sewers. Efforts are underway, however, to create tests so these areas can also be tested.

Mr. Wehrley stated that the next phase of dye testing will include soaker hoses used on laterals between the sidewalk and the house.

Mr. Perry noted that Wauwatosa's portion of the study area consists of 4,000 parcels; dye water testing was performed on about 2,000. Of the 2,000 parcels, 444 showed leaks. Lateral flow rate was estimated at about 12 *cfs*. Defects in public sewer mains was estimated at 3 *cfs*. Manhole leaks account for an estimated 1 *cfs*, for a total of 16 *cfs*. Three-quarters of the leak problem is coming from private sources. If the incidence of clear water in sanitary sewers is going to be reduced, simply correcting all of the problems within the public sewer system is not going to yield the desired outcome.

The critical data that must be collected is the condition of the private laterals. In response to a query, Mr. Bennett stated that it is too soon to know whether correcting just, say, half of the leaking laterals will enable the City to meet MMSD performance standards.

Mr. Bennett stated that a limited dye test of private laterals in the study area can be conducted; if results show only a small number of leaks, further testing may be unnecessary. However, if most laterals show leaks in the test area, more testing may be indicated to determine the extent of the problem.

A range of alternatives exist to correct flooding problems. At one extreme, conveyance capacity can be increased via upsizing of pipes, temporary water storage, and bypassing excess flow to the river. This option does not address aging private infrastructure.

Alternately, an option could be used whereby the public sewer main and manhole defects are corrected, as are private laterals and foundation drains. This effort must be comprehensive and sustainable.

The ultimate solution may be a combination of the two aforementioned options; depending on the method selected, cost estimates for the Wauwatosa portion of this metershed range from $34 million to $84 million dollars:

- Upsize pipes and store excess for 5-year event; bypass remaining excess for extreme event ($34-39 million)
- Inflow/infiltration reduced via repair of targeted laterals; upsize pipes and store excess for 5-year event; bypass remaining excess for extreme event ($39-40 million)
- Inflow/infiltration reduced via repair of many laterals and disconnection of most foundation drains; upsize pipe for extreme event ($62-77 million)
- Inflow/infiltration reduced via repair of all laterals, disconnection of all foundation drains; minor upsizing of pipes ($81-84 million)

Mr. Wehrley confirmed that to date, the City has addressed flooding issues with the installation of larger pipes. There are limits, however, to the size of pipe that MMSD permits to be used. The Common Council needs to decide whether to tackle the flooding coming from private sources.

The following objective-specific costs have been identified:

- $7 million: Rehabilitate existing structural defects (public system)
- $7 - $34 million: Comply with MMSD performance standards (for storage, *or* targeted laterals and storage, *or* many laterals and foundation drains, *or* all laterals and foundation drains)
- $7-$20 million: Basement backup reduction
- Up to $5 million: Bypass for excess flow
- $26-$31 million: Collection system for sump discharge (replaces foundation drains connected to sewer)

Mr. Brown observed that in order to achieve optimal results in MS0411, the City of Milwaukee will have to complete complementary work in its two sewersheds.

In response to a question, Mr. Wehrley stated that it is unlikely MMSD will have additional money available for municipalities beyond what it is now dispensing to correct flooding issues.

It was noted that the above-mentioned costs are planning-level costs; they could be as much as 50% more or 30% less once detailed designs are drafted. The relative level of expense should remain the same. Mr. Porter reminded the Committee that these potential costs are associated with just three sewersheds in Wauwatosa. Information provided previously to the Committee in July 2011 reviewed all studied sewersheds.

Jim Price, 861 N. 60th Street, asked what the public cost difference might be if property owners pay their own repair costs. Mr. Perry replied that private costs could vary between $9-$34 million.

Committee comments included the observation that in the end, it is all public cost; utilities are funded through rates. Additionally, if the entire system is old, how can a triage approach be used?

Mr. Wehrley agreed that if a decision is made to line laterals, all laterals should be lined. The major cost lies in labor costs, not materials. If the labor is present, all the necessary work should be done. A spot leak that is repaired will likely just migrate elsewhere. Mr. Wehrley stated that staff is looking at a particular type of lateral liner that currently costs $5,000 per lateral; however, staff has been told that the

patent on this liner will expire in about six years. Once that occurs, it is conceivable that competition will lower the cost.

In response to a foundation drain question, Mr. Wehrley said that if a property owner already has a sump, there is no disconnection cost. If the foundation drain is connected to a sanitary sewer, that is a fixed cost. The question becomes one of function for the drain. If the drain tiles are in bad shape, the sump won't work as well; costs could be incurred to repair drain tiles.

It was moved agreed the next step is discussion of pertinent policy issues.

Vouchers. The following vouchers were submitted:

Name	**Dept.**	**Reason/location**	**Date**	**Amount**
J. Ruggini	Finance	CVMIC – Stevens Point, WI	7/21-22/11	$159.84
B. Beckman	Police	Spanish for Law Enforcement – Oak Creek, WI	8/24-26/11	$ 25.88

It was moved by Ald. Hanson, seconded by Ald. Berdan that vouchers be allowed and paid. Ayes 6, Present 1 (Donegan)

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk

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