

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
March 15, 2016

There was a meeting of the Service Committee in Council Chambers on Monday March 14, 2016 after Finance Committee with these members present:

Jeff Rath, Chair	Carol Floyd
Bill Cost Jr.	Curtis Johnson for Ryan Bubb
Mark Fraizer	

We wish to Report:

1. Joe Ebel, Licking County Health Commissioner gave a semi-annual report.
2. **Resolution No. 16-25** authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service of the City of Newark, Ohio to negotiate and enter into contract, subject to the appropriation of funds, for professional engineering services in connection with the design and construction of a Riverbank Filtration System Project. Pursuant to article 10.02 (d) of the charter of the City of Newark, this contract for professional services does not require competitive bidding was considered.

Roger Loomis- this is a project that we are working on at our Water Treatment Plant. As most of you may or may not know that we draw water in from the North Fork Licking River, we have two intakes there currently. We basically take the water directly out of the river. This project has been our books for several years trying to figure out how we are going to get this done. We would like to design a riverbank filtration system. We would go upstream and draw some wells along the river. The wells act as pre-filters. That serves as protection for us in case anything were to get in the river and it saves us chemical costs for treatment. This basically gets us in a design contract for someone to go out and drill some wells. Before we do anything we have to drill wells to make sure the whole system would work and test some things to make sure it is what we want to do then design the system. This is about a year project, we probably won't do any building up there until late 2017- early 2018.

Mr. Rath- if I understood you correctly if there was a tanker spill or even pesticide or insecticide run off from the farmers because you are pulling the water from the

collector wells rather than from the river would the wells be protected from events like that?

Roger Loomis- there is no 100% guarantee of anything but it is another layer of protection but if we are drawing from underneath we aren't going to get that kind of contamination. It's basically another layer of protection with our drinking water.

Mr. Fraizer- how far up stream are the wells being dug?

Roger Loomis- that depends on a lot of things, we need to go out and do some test drills. The hope is to be as close to the plant as you can but you have to be a little upstream and you have to be cautious of how that impacts water supplies that are upstream.

Motion by Mrs. Floyd to send to full Council, second by Mr. Cost

Motion passed by a 5-0.

3. **Ordinance No. 16-04** approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinance and a resolution as parts of the various component codes of the codified ordinances; providing for the adoption of new matter in the updated and revised codified ordinances; repealing ordinances and resolutions in conflict therewith; and declaring an emergency was considered.

Director Sassen- this is our standard semi-annual update of the codified ordinances so that they are up to date.

Motion by Mr. Fraizer to send to full Council, second by Mrs. Floyd

Motion passed by a 5-0.

4. **Ordinance No. 16-05** authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract, subject to the appropriation of funds, with the Combined General Health District of Licking County for the continued delivery of public health services to the City of Newark, Ohio was considered.

Director Rhodes- this is the new Health District contract. A little background, about 10 years ago in these Council Chambers we talked about the cost of providing health care to our citizens. The cost of it continually climbed and climbed and the grants that we were receiving were going down. The costs were continually coming out of our General Fund. It seemed odd to the Council at that time that we would operate our own Health Department out of the same building the County operated their Health Department. Our cost at that time 10 years to operate our own Health Department was \$878,000.00 a year. When it was negotiated 10 years ago the only real savings that we were going to

see in the beginning was maybe Judith Carr's salary. The hope was to combine the two districts and increase our opportunities for grants and to have a good working relationship with the county. I would say all of that has been achieved. When the Mayor got elected and I got appointed Service Director the first contract was coming to an end and we had a couple of months to negotiate it. The first negotiation that we were able to achieve was because they had had a few retirements from their group of employees through attrition and they passed those savings along to us and they saved \$100,000.00 a year. At that time I asked this Council if it would be alright if I negotiated the next contract a little early and they said yes just bring the contract back to us to approve the terms and the conditions of contract. So that is what I have done. We have worked with the County Health Department and we were able to successfully negotiate a \$50,000.00 a reduction which total from start to finish is \$150,000.00 a year from where we were. This contract goes into place January 1, 2018. They need to get a couple of more yes's from Heath City Council and another Council which we don't think will be a problem. Through the efficiencies that have been gained by combining them through retirement, grants that they continually get and through working with us they have agreed to lower our cost another \$50,000.00 for a 5 year period. The nuts and bolts of it are that January 1, 2018 our cost will be \$738,000.00 a year for a 5 year period and if I am still around and Mayor Hall is around about the fourth year of this I would like to re-approach. The reason I say that is if you guys turn the contract down I would have to go out and figure out how to start a new Health Department and to be honest with you I don't think I could do it for the dollars we are spending here. They just gave us an update of what they do; they are in here semi-annually to keep us updated. I have not had one complaint about the Health District. We have representatives on the board for the City of Newark representing us.

Motion by Mrs. Floyd to send to full Council, second by Mr. Johnson

Mr. Fraizer- Joe, this is a five year contract what do we expect to see after 5 years for the health of our citizens, the future of Newark and the quality of health care that we are receiving?

Joe Ebel- the biggest thing that we are looking at right now is the smoking rate. That contributes to a lot of the problems that we have with our poor health outcomes. The three big things that we are looking at are increasing physical activity, increasing nutrition; we are working closely with the new Farmer's Market and have arranged for them to accept WIC and food stamp benefits. Physical activity and nutrition are closely related to the obesity problem, over 2/3 of our residents are overweight or obese and that contributes to our diabetes, heart disease and cancer rates and then you throw on our high smoking rates. Last year we got a Creating Healthy Communities Grant that

brought in \$100,000.00 for that grant program to work on things like access to healthy food, access to walking and parks. We want to make sure we are address a need and not just doing it because we have always done it. We want to make sure we are focusing our efforts on the things that are really going to make an impact of our community.

Mr. Fraizer- as far as access to health care are there any plans over the next five years to improve access say in the south and east end areas like that that are farther away from the Health Department and limited access to its services?

Joe Ebel- we have an access to care committee that runs out of our Community Health Committee and one of the things that they generally find is that there is health care access available even if you are uninsured. A lot of times the problem is that people in that community don't know how to access that system. In fact we even found that people who work in the social services don't know how to make referrals into the system so we are continuing to work on that. We just did a quality improvement project in our office that we just completed on making referrals and matching people up to resources. Access to dental care has been a big problem that we have been working with the Look Up Center on. If there is a gap that nobody is able to fill then we want to look at trying to do that ourselves or if other partners in the community can do that and we can support them. The biggest challenge in Newark and I'm sure people will tell you is transportation considering the income levels so unless you are going to open branches all over the community without public transit it is hard for people to make WIC appointments and others like that.

Motion passed by a 5-0.

Jeff Rath, Chair