

**Master Plan Community Facilities  
September 12, 2016**

Members Present – Elyse Crossman, JR Peter Nelson, Eileen Skowronski, Deb Matteau  
Staff- Nancy Merrill, Scott Sweet, Rick Bergeron, Victor St. Pierre

**Department of Public Works**

Director Scott Sweet & Asst. Director Vic St. Pierre gave a recap of the draft report that was submitted to the committee. There was discussion about demand for service over the next 5-10 years.

- Department would like to see more water & sewer users to cover costs.
- Same amount of water used today as in 1950.
- No higher demand seen for roads and sidewalks; issue is more of a maintenance issue.
- Existing water & sewer service can accommodate expansion on Washington St. & River Rd. Maple St. is OK for now in most areas. Charlestown Road is undersized from Ledgewood to Grissom and will limit development in that area.
- Main St. project from Union to Opera House Square is a significant betterment in an area with old & disintegrating pipe.

Peter Nelson asked what DPW's priorities were in terms of challenges?

1. Old lead service lines. 147 were replaced last year, but there are 98 left to go. They don't know where the lead goose necks are until the line is dug up. The city water is still testing fine because of the use of chemicals so lead doesn't release from the pipes. Anticipate a cost of \$2500 per service@98 services.
2. Being able to continue using reservoir water. Quality is better and the gravity feed is much more desirable than to have to pump from the Sugar River. The issue is that currently there is only a 10" pipe from Whitewater to Rice to Dole, and it should be 16" to carry the volume. With approximately 11,000 feet of pipe at \$150 a foot, this replacement would be approximately \$1.5 million plus engineering. There is an approximate \$30,000 savings annually from not having to turn on the pumps for Sugar River.
3. There is currently a lot of infiltration/leakage in the old city sewer lines. There are approximately 80 miles of pipe across the city, with about 33 miles of older lines that are 8" or smaller. City dealt with about half a dozen sink holes this year, including a significant one on Broad Street, and another in Opera House Square.
4. Road and sidewalk maintenance. There is a 7 year paving plan which is reviewed annually and reprioritized. Paving does not always resolve ongoing issues, but it costs four times as much to box cut and repair the road beds as it does to pave. Current costs for water, sewer, road box cut, and new asphalt is approximately \$1.7 million a mile plus engineering.

Peter Nelson asked if the state had a bonding program for all the cities and towns which are having infrastructure problems?

Deb Matteau asked about water and sewer capacity. 40% capacity with sewer and 40-50% with water. She asked if there were opportunities for neighboring towns to utilize Claremont water and sewer, and Vic St. Pierre indicated not at this time.

Regular maintenance of the city infrastructure is recommended.

**Police** Chief Alex Scott gave a summary of the police facility report. The department has been at its current location for 40 years with no meaningful upgrades. Their two biggest challenges in the next 5-10 years:

- Locker rooms – age of the locker rooms as well as a larger number of female police officers dictate the need for two separate, updated facilities. With good design the space is available.
- Break room – The Police Department is a 24/7 operation and the break room is where officers get their meals. Limited cooking, washing and refrigeration unit needs to be expanded; electrical upgrades may be necessary and space needs maintenance.

Generally the department rooms were built with one outlet per room and electrical upgrades occur as need arises. There are also ADA issues with both the main building and addition.

Demand for Service. Chief Scott indicated that the police coverage average in communities is 2.5 – 2.75 officers per 1000 population which with a population of 13,000 should be close to 30 officers. Claremont currently is authorized for 25. There was a discussion of changes in policing, particularly with respect to mental health issues.

Technology. Dispatch was upgraded last summer and is functioning well. New communication systems are needed.

Regular maintenance of the facility is recommended.

The committee discussed building lighting & heating as important in all facilities.

NOTE: City buildings did undergo an energy audit several years ago which could be referenced in this chapter. They contained many recommendations, some of which have been implemented, i.e. the wood pellet boiler at the fire station. NM

Nancy Merrill