

WORK SESSION
AGENDA
May 21st

Water System Plan

Last March, Schwab-Eaton was contracted to perform an assessment of our water system. They have been working with City Staff to gain a comprehensive understanding of the system and identify areas of concern. The GIS system has been particularly helpful in this effort. They were also hired to map out logical improvement areas and analyze them for estimated construction costs. Once completed, they will provide us a working document format that uses maps and an overview of the area to work, from that it will allow us to prioritize and be more deliberate in our water infrastructure improvements. Good planning will also allow us to make better decisions increasing our return-on-investment.

Stuart Porter with Schwab-Eaton will be at the meeting to provide an update on the project and to solicit your input so that they can complete the study and make sound recommendations. Enclosed is a map of the system. We will have additional and more readable maps at the work session.

This study will be a valuable tool for effective grant planning. By acting now, we may be able to meet the September grant timeline to the CDBG program. We would have to identify and qualify areas that would meet the low-to-moderate income guidelines targeted by the program. This would require a survey of the benefit area and matching funds, up to 50% of the total request. Matching funds would need to be included in the 2019 and 2020 budgets and could be in the form of a revolving loan, if desired. In addition, a rate study would need to be undertaken and the base for 5,000 gallons of water would need to be increased.

Vac-Con

The City's Vac truck is used by most of the utilities and the Street Department for removing water and other material below the surface. This is a vital part of our operations and we are trying to determine how best to include this in the 2019 budget. The Vac-Con product has served the City well for 18 years and there are a host of advantages that they bring to the table. A Vac-Con dealer will be at the work session to talk about the truck's features, advantages, and benefits.

Paperless Agenda Packets

I would appreciate your input on how you would like to proceed, or if you would like to proceed, on creating a paperless agenda packet for the Council. This avenue would create more flexibility in the delivery of information to you. For example, a vehicle or project could include various easily accessible links to learn and get more information, such as a video or a website. A paperless agenda would be particularly beneficial during the budget discussions. Access to past agendas could be easier and we would save labor and material costs associated with copying and distributing the agenda. The initial

investment would vary depending on the direction that the Council would prefer. Of course, we would be glad to provide hardcopies, if that is preferred.

Feedback from other City Managers and Administrators suggest that most Governing Bodies like receiving information in this format. They generally recommend purchasing tablets for each of the Council members, preferably ones that allow notes to be added, if desired. Managers that have used Dropbox have found this to be a good practice.

Parks Advisory Board

Like the Pool Advisory Committee, I would appreciate your input on the formation of a Parks Advisory Board. Some communities have found that functional advisory boards that focus on issues and projects specific related to parks help both the Governing Body and the Staff. Although only acting in an advisory capacity, as these engaged citizens become knowledgeable of the depth of the activities involved and the resources allotted, their input is valuable in making recommendations on priorities, allocation of resources, and they become advocates for the parks and our efforts in this arena. The Board should include Staff participation and at least one City Council member.

Pool Surcharge

The Swimming Pool will require a future investment, no matter what happens. Contracting with a professional pool consultant will help to build consensus on the pool with the Pool Committee, the Council, and the general public. No matter the direction selected, there will be a significant investment. An estimate by Carother's Construction is for \$805,000, which is for renovation and repair of the existing structure's piping, base, platform, etc. This cost does not include the Pool House which is in pretty good shape. The timeframe for renovation, repair, new construction, or a hybrid of all is undetermined at this time and we are preparing for the annual swimming season as we have for the last few decades.

An aging pool is not unique to Larned. Some communities, facing a similar situation, have utilized a surcharge on Utility Bills to off-set costs. Hoisington is one of these communities. They have implemented, now a two dollar, charge that goes to costs associated with their pool. In turn, the utility customer's family is not charged for use of the pool as well as passes for four additional people that they designate. Enclosed is Hoisington's Ordinance and annual letter to customers.

The City has roughly 2,300 water customers and as a result, each dollar would raise about \$27,600 annually. If the City Council were to approve this all revenue sources raised by the surcharge should be restricted to activities directly related to the capital investment for the Pool and kept separately in a fund, perhaps entitled Pool Reserve Fund.

At the June 4th Regular Council Meeting, a few pool related items will be included – consideration of the selection of a consulting and planning firm, contracting agreement with a financial consultant, and possibly a surcharge for pool capital investment. Access to the Pool Reserve Fund could justifiably include the consulting activities, if the Council chooses to hire a consulting and planning firm. The financial consultant would be no cost to the City and would be compensated through activities related

to the financial instruments, if utilized. This person would be able to assess our current revenue sources and trends and would guide the Governing Body in financial decision making.

This is on the work session agenda to familiarize you with the surcharge and its potential impact fiscally as well as how it could fit into an overall picture with the swimming pool.