



Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Virtual Meeting

October 6, 2020

Summary and Motions

Chair Farmer called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Committee Members Kay, McCurn, Swanson, Higgins-Hord, Worley, F. Brown, and Bledsoe were present. Committee Members Moloney and Mossotti were absent. Council Members Lamb, Reynolds and Plomin were also in attendance as non-voting members.

Farmer began the meeting by providing the following statement: “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and State of Emergency, this meeting is being held via live video teleconference pursuant to 2020 Senate Bill 150, and in accordance with KRS 61.826, because it is not feasible to offer a primary physical location for the meeting.”

I. Approval of September 1, 2020 Committee Summary

Motion by McCurn to approve the September 1, 2020 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary. Seconded by Higgins-Hord. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Review of RFI for Routing Software

Aldona Valicenti, Chief Information Officer, provided a review of routing solutions for the Department of Environmental Quality & Public Works and explained that a Request for Information (RFI) was put together by team members from multiple departments for the purpose of determining whether or not another solution exists. She reviewed the seven responses that were received and after a review of three companies that were selected for follow-up meetings, it was determined that Lexington’s technology compares favorably to other options presented. She described concerns that drivers are doing too much and there is a potential for distracted driving with the use of on-board tablets. She suggested having a more hands-free option with the ability to capture more data. Potential improvements include working on an enterprise-wide contract; engaging drivers to find road conditions that need to be repaired; looking at ways to gather more data without the use of the tablet; and asking *Routeware* (current vendor) to provide additional solutions for Lexington.

Bledsoe expressed interest in the cameras for investigating why trash was not picked up and she asked how we get access to these pictures. Eddie Dean, IT Project Manager for Environmental Quality & Public Works, responded that the cameras are mainly on front-loaders which are not typically used for residential pick-up, but instead are used at dumpsters. He said most of the cameras are enabled on the side loaders and anytime a driver takes a picture it uploads to *Routeware* and he emphasized that they have been unable to capture a house that was missed. He added that there is technology available to accomplish this, but there would be significant cost involved.

To clarify when the *Routeware* agreement is renewed, Lamb asked what the terms are for the agreement currently in place. Valicenti explained that this was initially thought of as a sole source, but because there are no specific requirements and because sole source tends to be for commodity items, it is not considered a sole source. She said this is a “solution” which includes a software, hardware, and a telecom

component and the ability to combine these into one solution is what differentiates one from another. She said the *Routeware* agreement is year-to-year, but we can add more tablets or telecom capability if necessary.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

III. Annual Snow and Ice Removal Plan

Rob Allen, Director of Street & Roads, spoke about the snow plan expenses from 2018-2020 and major changes for this year, pointing out that we have 5,800 tons on hand and we have the capacity to hold 8,800 tons. He explained the route rankings and the service levels for each of those. He said the goal is to complete roadway snow plan for routes 1-4 within 36 hours of snowfall end and sidewalk clearance for those routes within 96 hours. Susan Plueger, Director of Environmental Services, went into more detail about sidewalk snow removal and how this is a priority. Allen spoke about the staffing challenges and the areas where staffing is valuable. He explained the plan's finalization schedule which will be posted by October 30.

In response to Farmer's concern, Allen confirmed that the pricing schedule remains in effect if we need to purchase salt at a later date.

Considering we haven't had many snow events in the recent years, Reynolds asked if we have enough salt to make it through a mild winter. Allen explained that looking at historical figures, we have an average of 22 weather events and we use between 600-1,200 tons of salt at a time and last year we only used 1,700 tons total for 8 events. With 5,800 tons on hand and a supplier close by should we need additional salt, we are prepared. He added that there are 2,000 gallons of brine on hand that allows for pre-treating areas which reduces the amount of salt used.

F. Brown asked if the priority for school roads were accounted for since schools have been closed. Allen said we did not other than increasing communication with Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) fiscal division in cases of emergency. He said there is a plan in place and we are prepared. Bledsoe asked if priorities will shift if schools are not back in session when snow fall begins. Allen said this has not been discussed but most schools are on a neighborhood collector and those will not be downgraded. Bledsoe spoke about the transparency of the snow plow tracker that adds a level of comfortability for constituents who may not otherwise know if it is safe to get on the road.

Expressing concern that homeowners may not be sure what their responsibility is, Higgins-Hord requested that informational graphics be sent to Council for inclusion in newsletters and Allen said the PIO office has information available they can send to Council.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

IV. Environmental Education

Angela Poe provided a brief background on Environmental Education and reviewed the history since 2016 when the contract was split in 3 components: Environmental Education, Business Outreach, Apartments/Community and the focus of today's presentation is Environmental Education which takes place in a group with students K-12. She said the lessons have been tightened and professional development for teachers was added with a focus on resources for students with fewer environmental education options. She highlighted next steps in moving forward with this program which includes hiring

an Environmental Education Coordinator and an AmeriCorps Member, restructuring the Environmental Education contract, and continuing to build community relationships.

In looking for a better way to expose kids who do not have the same opportunities as others, Bledsoe asked if partnering with the Summer Youth Jobs Program for apprenticeships or mentorships has been considered. Poe said the intent was to have a Partners for Youth intern this past summer, but that was cancelled due to the pandemic. She explained her vision for the future which is targeted mostly toward the elementary schools and middle schools so those students have plenty of time to learn about a variety of different jobs before making a decision on their field of study as they get out of high school.

For clarification, Reynolds asked if other outside contractors are used or if it is only Bluegrass Greensource. Poe replied that Bluegrass Greensource has always been the provider for environmental education.

Responding to Farmer's question as to when the two new positions would be hired, Poe said she hopes to have the Environmental Education Coordinator early next year and the AmeriCorps Member next fiscal year.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

V. Capacity Assurance Program (CAP) Audit Results

Charlie Martin, Director of Water Quality, explained the Capacity Assurance Program (CAP) is a requirement under the Consent Decree which went live in July 2013. He said this is an accounting system for system repairs and/or capacity expansions as well as new or expanded service connections. He explained that a taskforce was formed to define the program and they brought forward 19 recommendations. He highlighted recommendation #19 which requires an audit of the program every two years with quarterly reports sent to the EPA which became a requirement in Sec. 16-307 of our ordinance. He said the current audit is for 2017-2019 where 25 applications were randomly selected for review with a final audit report submitted in September 2019 which showed the process for assuring sewer capacity to be in compliance with the intent of the ordinance.

Addressing Farmer's concern as to whether this presentation provides enough transparency and information at the right place and time, Martin pointed out that the entire audit report is also posted to the website which provides additional transparency. Kay emphasized that the purpose of this program is to ensure that there is no development plan that gets approved without knowing if there is adequate sewer capacity.

Motion by Kay to approve the Capacity Assurance Plan Audit, seconded by McCurn. The motion passed without dissent.

VI. Items Referred to Committee

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

Motion by Kay to adjourn, seconded by McCurn. The motion passed without dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

To view meeting materials, click [here](#).

To view a video recording of this meeting, click [here](#).