Safety & Service Committee
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 - 5:00 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

    Committee Chair Benjamin Lee called the Safety and Service Committee meeting for March 2, 2021 to order at 5:01 pm

    Members Present - Ben Lee, Marvin Block, Doug Lehner
    Absent - None

    Staff present - Jim Lenner, Jack Liggett, Chief Haroon, Mayor Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Bailey Klimchak, Jim Blair, Teresa Monroe.

    Public present - Al Kohler/AEP, Brett Schmied/AEP, John Luke, Dudley Wright, One caller unidentified.

2. Action on Minutes

    a. February 2, 2021

ACTION:	Doug Lehner moved to Approve; Marvin Block seconded and all were in favor.
AYES:	Benjamin Lee, Marvin Block, Doug Lehner
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
	Passed 3 - 0

3. AEP Presentation and Q & A

    Presentation by Al Kohler on a Proposal for Street Lighting Opportunity with AEP Ohio.

2021 Committee Goals

1. Update security in water plant, sewer plant and service departments
2. Investigate window security and replacement for admin and council chambers
3. Install street lights where needed to improve visibility
4. Conduct crime mapping
5. Sidewalk program
6. Create dangerous street tree removal policy

The presentation provided an inventory of village owned lighting and AEP's proposal to acquire and maintain the village LED and non-LED Street Lighting system. Mr. Kohler said the lights would be billed and maintained as company owned street lights under their tariff; AEP Ohio would upgrade non-LED lighting to LED within twelve months of approval of the tariff. With the upgrade, smart controllers would eliminate the need for the village and citizens to report outages as fixture operation would be monitored by AEP. Mr. Kohler said AEP Ohio would pay the village for the lighting once the tariff is approved and that the real key to this deal would be that the village would avoid the capital cost to convert the system to LED. In the presentation Mr. Kohler reviewed proposed calculations and estimated financial and energy savings to the village and answered committee questions as they worked to understand the calculations. AEP said next steps would be 1) to confirm costs and assumptions; 2) to create an inventory of the system; 3) prepare a formal purchase agreement; 4) write a contract, not consummated until PUCO approves LED tariff and effective date has arrived. Mr. Kohler noted that the tariff has not changed in thirty years, he worked to review and explain rate comparison spreadsheets.

Ben Lee summarized as he understood the costs: current state $3,600 as it stands then with the one hundred sixty some lights AEP would purchase that would then be added on to the account, after infrastructure updates the monthly bill would go from the $3,600 to $5,000. Mr. Kohler said correct. Mr. Lee said then the ROI to determine then is, is that $1,400 per month offset by what the village would put in to get the lighting system up to the same standard. The cost would be another $17,000 per year but the payoff would be that AEP would own and maintain everything within the village under one umbrella. Mr. Kohler said one other aspect is that the village is spending $1,000 per month on what AEP would charge $1400 for so it is really only a $400 difference; plus saving the $120,000 to upgrade everything and AEP pays the village $18,000 for the purchase.

Mr. Lenner asked if AEP had been successful with any other communities in this negotiation or purchasing of their systems. Mr. Kohler said yes but it is early on; he has three committed of the three he has proposed it to and the village would be the fourth; he is working on the contracts with the three. Mr. Kohler said the whole catch is that if the PUCO does not approve the tariff then AEP cannot fulfil what they are saying and would then not convert to LED's.

Discussion on who the lighting manufacturer is and the style of the LED lighting options that AEP would inventory and the costs; Mr. Lee noted the current village lighting standard.

Mr. Block asked if AEP would begin to discuss the previous conversation of moving the electric lines in the downtown area to the back. Brett Schmied said there are a lot of electrical code issues that would need to be updated that have been grandfathered in over the years, it would cost customers significant money to relocate their AEP Ohio meters but it is something they can certainly look into further, just they would need to work with customers to move locations and look at updating to today's electrical code standard. Mr. Schmied said AEP would not be able to relocate the poles downtown to the back of the alley and still serve customers in the current locations because of the code changes. Mr. Block asked how many were served from the front; Mr. Schmied said he did not have the numbers handy but would get the information they gathered a number of years ago to Jim Lenner to pass along.

Mr. Lehner asked what the AEP response time is if a light pole is struck by a car and for conversation say it is one that AEP stocks; Mr. Kohler said response time would be within the terms of the tariff, ten days, unless it were an emergency with electrical exposed.

Mr. Lehner asked if AEP has had any conversation with cel phone providers to put nodes on the poles to go to 5G or high speed internet; Mr. Schmied said he was sure there were conversations but usually distribution poles are not tall enough, their corporate offices have communication with other industries for joint use, it is not something he would rule out completely but it usually is not coming from the distribution side; he said he did not know if they have been approached for nodes for cellular capacity quite yet; he would follow up with their joint use team and get an answer.

Mr. Lenner confirmed that the only contract that would come to fruition through this process would be a purchase contract, and then the operation and maintenance and repair would be governed by the tariffs, not a separate agreement between AEP and the Village; Mr. Kohler said that was correct.

Mr. Dutcher asked how the streets in Leafy Dell that were serviced by the Energy Coop would be handled; Mr. Kohler said that is difficult, if those lights are located outside AEP's service territory he was not sure how they would do that, they might have to use an outside contractor and try to do a separate maintenance agreement; he agrees it creates a problem.

Mr. Lenner noted AEP's analysis of capital costs the village would avoid in upgrading to an LED system and asked if we had to upgrade to an LED system if the village were to keep their own lights; Mr. Kohler said no. Mr. Lehner said many manufacturers are not making the HPS fixtures any longer so by default we will have to go LED eventually. Mr. Liggett noted that the lights the village has been changing out to LED are just the bulb not the solid state fixture, the advantage with AEP’s offer would be that the lights would all be changed out within five years, we are at a much slower pace. Mr. Lenner asked if the five year plan for replacement could be cut down to three; Mr. Kohler said the lights they would purchase would be done within one year and it would be likely that the lights on their tariff already would be converted at the same time, he cannot swear to their schedule right now but it would make sense.

Mr. Lee summarized next steps:

1. Asked that Mr. Lenner send the current village lighting standards to AEP.
2. Brett Schmied to get info back on moving the downtown electric service.
3. Al Kohler to send the manufacturer info to staff as requested.
4. Al Kohler to combine the $3600 current state versus what the future projected state would be adding the additional fixtures.
5. All Kohler to summarize current service level vs proposed service level in the tariff and the changes.
6. Noted that additional questions will be forwarded to be timely answered for next discussion.

Mr. Block said he just cannot get his brain wrapped around the whole proposal and what is good for Johnstown; just did not understand it right now. Mr. Lenner said he agreed, he is going to try and break it down to simplify for himself what he thinks is being proposed and will share. Mr. Lee said he would like to see AEP boil this down to a simple one page presentation to break down current state, future state, proposal, savings etc.; that might help.

Mr. Block said his summary was that the village is being offered $18,362.00 to sell their lights; the current bill is $3,601.00 per month and the bill would go to $5,000.00 per month; some further discussion; Mr. Lee said analysis will continue to be run before next meeting in April. Mr. Kohler said he would update his analysis and forward and will attend next meeting.

4. Construction Project Updates

Time did not allow for updates.

5. Other Business

No further business.

6. Adjourn

ACTION:	Doug Lehner moved to Adjourn; Benjamin Lee seconded and all were in favor.
AYES:	Benjamin Lee, Marvin Block, Doug Lehner
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Passed 3 - 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.