

# VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING June 14, 2017

The Bolivar Village Council met in a **special session** on **Wednesday, June 14, 2017**. Mayor Hubble called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Gettan, Lang, Lapp, Lebold & Vincent answered roll call. Lloyd was absent.

The Mayor began the meeting stating its purpose, as stated in the Times Reporter, to discuss the Bolivar water supply system. Before turning the meeting over to our speaker from the Ohio EPA, the Mayor deferred to the Solicitor for an opening statement.

The solicitor made a statement on record specifying the meeting was called as an emergency meeting under Ohio Revised Code section 121.22(f). The news media was immediately notified pursuant to the requirements under that code section. The solicitor wanted to make it clear, this is that kind of meeting and we have followed all of the requirements and that it's on record.

First Debbie Prim asked Council if they were aware of what's happening. She started by providing a little background as follows:

Last August, Debbie Prim, required the Village to start reporting to the Ohio EPA on a monthly basis the iron and manganese concentrations. Since the first report in September, 2016, the Village has exceeded the mcl at least one time each month until May 2017.

Debbie stated she had been on vacation last week. When she read and reviewed the May monthly operating report on Tuesday, it not only exceeded the secondary mcl for manganese but we also exceeded the health advisory level for manganese. At that point a call was made to Franks reporting the Village had exceeded the health advisory level. That level was .34 and pertains to infants six months or younger, women who are pregnant or women who are breast feeding. There's another level called the lifetime health advisory level for adults which is 1.0. The Village did not reach that level but did exceed the health advisory level.

Franks had provided Debbie Prim with the name of our lab, Ream & Haager. Prim contacted the lab to retrieve the results for the first week of June; which were still high. When she called the lab they actually had two weeks of data for the manganese and both of those weeks possibly exceeded the health advisory level. Which means for a full month the Village was exceeding the health advisory level for manganese. The .3 is a ten day health advisory level which means we would be seeing that three times. At that point, the State would automatically get involved and would require the health department to issue a public notice about use and the limits of use for the population that would be affected.

Debbie spoke with Franks off and on all day yesterday (June 13) and came up to Bolivar this morning and started seeing what was actually going on. While here, she found out we had actually been using a dirty well, the bad well due to problems with production in well number four. Well four has a higher iron/manganese but its well below the health advisory level. All of our wells have higher iron/manganese. As soon it was discovered we were using the bad well,

Franks switched over yesterday back to the good well which the production is low on it. He flushed the system and refilled the system with the water from well four which was ok. Our levels are back down now so the advisory has been lifted. Franks will go ahead and sample for manganese through next Monday. Tomorrow and Friday they will be doing hand held manganese meter sampling; tests on Saturday and Sunday and another lab sampling on Sunday. Prim has given Franks all of her phone numbers and he knows to call her if any of the manganese levels for any of the sampling would go above .3 which would put us back in the emergency situation again. Right now things are safe.

In Columbus, the Division of Drinking and Ground Water acting Chief has informed Prim that the Village will have to install some type of treatment for iron & manganese. If we treat for manganese, we are taking out iron. What we are currently doing will no longer be feasible for the EPA. The EPA will not allow the Village to adjust by sequestering with polyphosphates or adjust our chlorine feed to oxidize the manganese out of the water. The State will now force the Village to go through treatment; to install official treatment. That treatment will be some type of filtration. The only other option the Village would have is to get out of the water business all together and to purchase our water through the County. "Those are your two options. I'm giving this to you up front right now because I think you need to know. You need to this is what's going to be happening".

Prim went on to advise that the Village will probably be getting a letter from the State. She's not sure whether enforcement action will be pursued yet or not. Historically when this has happened, they will push through enforcement which is very costly. Prim stated she will try her best to keep the village out of enforcement because it usually comes with a cash penalty as well.

Prim did reassure though, just being here in the Village all day today, working with the Mayor and with Dave; seeing how proactive they are she feels confident we are working towards fixing a lot of things with the water system. She added that she knows the Village is looking at replacing water lines, starting to install meters; the Village is moving ahead. She also noted the Village hasn't been slack with its system. Prim also reported the Mayor was able to get a hold of an engineer today to come in and take a look at our current plant to see if it could accommodate additional treatment. The Mayor added that she already received a preliminary quote back from the engineer at approximately 2.5 million which could vary in either direction depending on cheaper alternatives.

In order to get a more accurate quote, the engineering firm said a study would first have to be done which would cost approximately \$20,000.00. The Mayor advised she would not have the authority to approve the expense; the only authority the Mayor had was to contact the engineer for pricing due to the emergency situation.

There were additional discussions about the scope of work, engineering firms and the proposed study. Prim explained there are different types of systems available and it's important to know which type of system was being quoted.

Council asked what our timeline to become compliant is. Prim replied it would depend on whether or not the situation goes to a full enforcement action. Prim recommends the Village draft a letter stating everything the Village has been working on now; the current projects as far as water upgrades, metering, GPS mapping, everything we are planning now. The Village would also need to specify its intent to install water treatment. Prim stated if she could get

something like that, she would be able to support us to avoid a nightmare situation like Scio.

Prim went on to say that this will probably take a good two years because we are already past the funding period for this year; it would be next spring before the Village could obtain funding and another year for construction.

Gettan asked if this is happening because the Village went over the limit too many times. Prim clarified it's because the Village has exceeded the health advisory level which now makes it a public health risk. Prim added if well four fails and we have to resort to well three, the same well that caused this problem, we would be right back to having the same problem. Well four also has higher manganese and eventually that well could get as high as well three.

The bottom line, the Village will still have to install treatment and that's why Prim is here tonight to discuss everything. Prim stated she doesn't want the Village surprised by anything that's why she is laying out what the EPA will want.

Prim was hoping to work with the phosphate and chlorination feed but was ultimately told no; the Village will need to install treatment. Prim also clarified, the EPA isn't requiring the Village to put a new well in, and they are requiring the Village to install treatment.

Other issues discussed included the status of well four. This well is losing suction so it doesn't have the capacity that it had before. She said Ohio Drilling is working with the Village right now to try and resolve that.

Prim also stated if for some reason we have a waterline break or if there's a fire and we needed more water, that well four couldn't handle, the Village could always open its emergency connection with Wilkshire Hills (the County). After speaking with the County and looking at the demand for water, a lot of the Villages demand for water may be artificially high because the residential people aren't metered and they typically use a lot more water since they pay a flat rate. The County is only capable of supplying a certain amount of water to the Village which equates to approximately 187,000 gallons maximum. There would be some days that we would exceed that and they may not be able to meet our demand. With that said, that may not be an option to just go with the County water because they may not have the capacity.

The Mayor asked if this could have been prevented in any way, shape or form and Prim stated no.

Lang asked why the State strong is arming the Village; he understands it's a big deal but why don't we have other options. He reiterated we all live here; we want to keep all of our residents safe.

Prim went on to say in the past they could have come in to work with us and bring in Ohio Rural Water to adjust the treatment to get things into compliance. However, since the situation in Flint Michigan, any emergency has to be dealt with immediately.

Lebold asked, "So you're telling us that we are being required to put in an iron/manganese filtration system"? Prim's response was yes. Lebold expressed a concern regarding a timeline between the Village and the EPA that the Village would have time to get the right studies and deal with costs from different engineers to help save the most money. Lebold also wanted to clarify what he

heard that it could take up to two years. Prim said it will most likely take all of two years.

Prim said the Village is already working with RCAP right now; they are already doing a water rate study that should be complete any day. She said RCAP is a great resource for this type of problem and they will help us with finding engineering; their services are mostly free. Prim suggests contacting them because they will not only help to find engineers but help find funding as well.

The Mayor added she has already contacted RCAP today and left a message. She has not heard back from her yet but Sherry always does a good job getting back to her. The Mayor acknowledged the Village would need a funding source along with the number of steps that need to take place first, starting with engineering.

During discussions, Prim also stated the Village needs to be careful as to add on packages with water systems; not to purchase a package with softened water. She said many people already have water softeners and as a village we wouldn't want to treat softened water with softened water as that could become very corrosive and possibly lead and copper problems to the interior home plumbing.

Prim said the minimum the Village would need is two (2) pressure filters that are able to remove iron/manganese; one (1) for backwash and one (1) for filtering. That's all the Village would need.

The preliminary study that was proposed by an engineering firm today is something the Village would not need if they went with the green sand filtration; it's for the proprietary system.

Lang asked if there's a possibility the State may become stricter and require a proprietary system over the green sand? Prim said no because tried and true, manganese green sand works. She elaborated on the process of how the green sand works.

Lang went on to ask if we could use the green sand filtration on well three (3) to use and Prim said yes, "all three of your wells could use it".

Prim summarized by saying we need a system that handles iron/manganese removal. There are high end and low end ways. The old fashioned way, the tried and true way, is the manganese green sand filtration and it's much cheaper.

Lebold asked, "So right now our water is drinkable"? Prim said, "Yes it is, for everybody". Prim added, the village will be getting another violation from her though stating the Village exceeded the secondary level and the health advisory level. Prim went on to say, "one plus through this whole nightmare is because we have had a health risk, which bumps the Village up with its eligibility for funding".

Prim also explained the principal forgiveness program through the EPA that is currently at 75% loan forgiveness. For example, if we borrowed one million, we would only have to pay \$250,000.00 back. Next year the rate may not be as high; last year it was at 50%. It fluctuates each year. The Village would have to wait for funding until next year through the EPA because the funding

source deadline has already passed. In the meantime, it would give the Village time to get the engineering done and see what the final costs will be.

Vincent asked if there is anything we could have done to prevent this. Prim said no, it's just our water colony. She went on to state, "If I wouldn't have required you to start reporting the iron/manganese last September we wouldn't have known this". Chances are we have probably had these levels all along and did not know about them.

Vincent also asked, "So what are the health threats with this manganese"? Prim deferred to the handout regarding health effects. Prim clarified, there's a lifetime health advisory level (at 1.0) and a ten day health advisory level (at .30). In other words, we would have to drink the water our entire lifetime at levels of 1.0 or higher to be impacted by it.

Lang asked if Council needs to pass a resolution authorizing a letter stating what we have done. Armstrong stated she would recommend a resolution to allow the Mayor to seek additional engineering firms which shows the Village is actively pursuing this situation. Prim agreed it would show the Village is dedicated to fixing this problem; that we have already taken measures to resolve this.

Armstrong clarified, the resolution would give the Mayor authorization to seek proposals and those proposals would be brought back to the July meeting for Council to review. Prim added, if the Village has local contractors to perform part of the project, it may help lower the total costs.

Vincent questioned the size of the addition to the building needed to house the filtration system. Prim stated the pressure filters are each approximately 12' in diameter and roughly 10' tall. There also needs to be head space above the system. Approximately every ten to twelve years the media needs to be changed and they would enter from the top of the vessel to do so.

Prim also explained what manganese green sand is. It's marine sand that has a positive charge on it that removes particles for iron/manganese. She went on to discuss the technical process of filtering out the sediment. She also stated manganese is harder to remove than iron; so if we are treating for manganese, the iron will automatically be taken care of.

Prim went on to review other municipalities and the types of systems they are using. She said the manganese green sand system is very common and has been around for a very long time.

Lang asked if this system would require a full time water operator. Prim said no, it will still be a class 1 plant and we would need a class 1 operator.

Prim reiterated the Village should contact RCAP to assist with the process of finding an engineer.

The Mayor said she will call Sherry back and/or Pam Ewing. Prim also suggested she contact John if she can't reach Sherry or Pam.

Armstrong said all council needs to do is take a vote on allowing the Mayor to seek proposals.

Lang moved, seconded by Lapp authorizing Mayor Hubble to pursue additional means to correct our water problem and get the manganese under control. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

Prim closed by stating if we have any questions throughout this process to feel free and call her.

If any has questions, let the residents know the village exceeded its health advisory level for manganese and it has been resolved and the water is safe. Also let the residents know we are sampling on a regular basis.

There being no further business, Gettan moved, seconded by Lebold to adjourn until the next meeting on Monday, July 3, 2017. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

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Mayor Rebecca S. Hubble

ATTEST: 

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Maria A. App, Fiscal Officer

Approved: July 3, 2017