

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, January 22, 2024**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 5:01 p.m. The following members were present: Commissioner Burroughs, Chairman, Commissioners Kane, Burns, Lopez, Bynum appearing on behalf of Stites; and BPU Board Member Henry. The following officials were also in attendance: Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator; Troy Shaw, County Engineer; Sarah Schafer, Public Works; Monica L. Sparks, Interim UG Clerk, and Jessica Gabaree, UG Clerk's Office.

Chairman Burroughs said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that some committee members, staff, and the public are attending remotely as well as on site. All participants joining remotely should please mute phones and devices when you're not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, make sure you announce yourself by name and title when you speak, so that the public knows who's speaking and we have an accurate record. This is critical given the number of remote participants, it's also guidance from the Kansas Attorney General's Office.

The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those comments are included in the record of our meeting. The public can also indicate their intent to provide public comment by contacting our Clerk's Office by 5:00 P.M. the Thursday prior to meetings. The public also has an opportunity to provide comments, either by telephone, Zoom, or here in person in the 5th Floor Conference Room tonight, the night of the meeting.

Chairman Burroughs called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Burroughs said I will now ask the Clerk is there any revisions to our agenda tonight. **Monica L. Sparks, Interim UG Clerk**, said yes, Mr. Chair, there is a revision to the agenda. We have a new item number one, which was added and it's a resolution regarding the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement for Fire and Other Emergencies

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Approval of the minutes from December 12, 2022. **On motion of Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, the minutes were approved.** Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Henry, Lopez, Burns, Bynum, Kane, Burroughs.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212900...RESOLUTION: AUTOMATIC/MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR FIRE AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

Synopsis: Approval of a resolution authorizing the Automatic/Mutual Aid Agreement with Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, Edwardsville, and Bonner Springs Fire Departments to provide proper fire and emergency services to all of the Unified Government, submitted by Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief.

It is requested that this item be fast-tracked to January 25, 2024, full commission meeting.

Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief, said we appreciate the opportunity to explain our recommendation tonight and hope that you do approve it. If you go back a ways, in 1966 the United States Fire Service got together in a forum to develop a strategic plan. I happen to have a copy of that very important document and item 12 describes the fact that Fire Departments should engage in activities like we are. Automatic Aid and Mutual Aid, for quite a while our Fire Department has enjoyed Mutual Aid and what that essentially mean is we get fire apparatus, or ambulances, or Chief cars one location and then the decision is made to call for help. Automatic Aid takes it a step further, with the technology we have available we can determine the closet Fire Department resource whether it’s medical, hazardous materials, rescue, or fire response and get that vehicle or collection of vehicles rolling.

What this does is allow us to have a boundary drop when it comes to operations and in the most efficient and effective way be able to serve our communities along with supporting both Edwardsville and Bonner Springs. Fire Departments over the years have not supported what I shared with you out of the wingspread conference of 1966, but September 11th, 2001, changed that dramatically forever. New York City Fire Department is the second largest Fire Department in the world, certainly the largest in the United States, one of the best trained and one of the best

functioning departments. That day, as you might guess, and for the next several months, they were brought to their knees. Although they have about 1,300 additional calls per day, every day, their entire Fire Department was at Ground Zero. What that meant is the Mutual Aid Companies from surrounding states such as Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania and the like had to take care of business, if you will, for the New York City Fire Department. With this agreement, again, it strengthens our position, it allows us to serve our community better. The really good news, ma'am and sirs, is that it comes at no additional cost, all costs associated with our responding into their communities are covered by us. Their response into our communities are covered by them, by the two other cities. With that said, again, we would ask for your approval and we're ready for questions.

I brought along with us today, our Assistant Fire Chief, that takes care of communications and automation, Sean McLaughlin, and of course our attorney Missy Bishop is with us as well if there's any legal questions.

Chairman Burroughs said thank you Chief. Any questions from the members, comments?

Commissioner Burns said yes, I'm assuming that our good friends in Edwardsville and Bonner are on board with this. **Mr. Rubin** said sir, they've signed their documents, and we are the third component if you will. If you approve tonight and Thursday night, this will go into effect February 1st, but both Governments have signed through their legislative body, sir.

Chairman Burroughs said any other questions or comments.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by BPU Board Member Henry, to approve.**

Chairman Burroughs said we do have a point of order from Alan Howze our Legal Counsel on committee.

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, said I only play a lawyer on TV, not a lawyer by training, but I just want to make sure that the fast-track is in motion since that was a request.

Action: Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by BPU Board Member Henry, made a motion to approve and fast-track to Thursday night's meeting.

Chairman Burroughs said we do have a motion for approval of the resolution and to fast-track it to Thursday's meeting. Clerk, I'll ask if there's any comments received from the public. **Ms. Sparks** said no comments received. **Chairman Burroughs** said I'll ask if anyone online wishes to make a comment. If no one is appearing in person who would like to make comment, let the record show no one stepped forward.

Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes" Henry, Lopez, Burns, Bynum, Kane, Burroughs.

Chairman Burroughs said the entire community's benefit from this Mutual Aid Agreement. Chief, thank you for bringing it forward and please let the other Chiefs know that we sincerely appreciate the concerted effort. **Mr. Rubin** said absolutely will and want to thank our team, they have been amazing and especially a lot of extra work done by our Law Department.

Item No. 2 – 212851...RESOLUTION: CONSENT DECREE REQUIRED PROJECTS

Synopsis: Approval of a resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and description of lands to be acquired by the right and power of eminent domain for the location, laying out, reconstruction, expansion, repair, maintenance, operation, and use of sewer and stormwater projects for eight projects identified generally in the 2013 EPA Consent Decree and the 2020 Stormwater Seven Basin Deficiency Study, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works.

It is requested that this item be fast-tracked to the January 25, 2024, full commission meeting.

Troy Shaw, County Engineer, said the first item we'll talk about is the consent decree required projects is how we bundled it, so it's multiple projects that are required under our Sanitary Sewer Consent Decree. Majority of these, or I guess all of them, are related to sewer separations in that project and this is basically just the resolution so that we can move forward with the projects that have already been approved, get to a point where we can build them. So this is, as Commissioner

Burroughs noted, the resolution that allows us to go after right-of-way and easements as necessary for the projects.

Chairman Burroughs said any questions from the Committee? Clerk, do we have any members of the public that wish to speak to this item? **Ms. Sparks** said no hands are raised; no comments received. **Chairman Burroughs** said is there anybody appearing in person who would like to speak to this or address this item? Let the record show no one stepped forward. Any other questions from the Committee? Seeing none, I'd entertain a motion.

Action: **Commissioner Burns made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to approve and fast-track to January 25, 2024, full commission meeting.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes" Henry, Lopez, Burns, Bynum, Kane, Burroughs.

Item No. 3 – 212852...RESOLUTION: STORMWATER PROGRAM PROJECTS

Synopsis: Approval of a resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and description of lands to be acquired by the right and power of eminent domain for the location, laying out, reconstruction, expansion, repair, maintenance, operation, and use of sewer and stormwater projects for six projects identified generally in the 2020 Stormwater Seven Basin Deficiency Study, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works.

It is requested that this item be fast-tracked to the January 25, 2024, full commission meeting.

Troy Shaw, County Engineer, said the same thing as the last one. This is for a separate group of projects that are part of the WIFIA Program and ARPA. There's a couple I think an ARPA project as well. So this is the same thing moving forward projects that have already been approved in the budget and we have sitting there. It just needs the authority to start negotiating for right-of-way and any easement necessary.

Chairman Burroughs said Committee any questions? Anybody online with questions?

Chairman Burroughs said Clerk? **Commissioner Kane** said Bynum has her hand raised.

Commissioner Bynum said I just wanted to ask Troy to maybe share with new commissioners and the public what WIFIA means, it's a financing tool to get some of this needed work done. **Mr. Shaw** said I'll let Sarah Schafer take that one, she's the expert at that and is the one who helped us get these funds.

Sarah Schafer, Public Works, said so the WIFIA is the Water Infrastructure Act for financing. It's through the EPA and it is a loan program that assists communities in very low interest long-term stormwater and their clean water projects done which our stormwater and our CSO projects qualify.

Chairman Burroughs said yes, thank you for that and Commmissioner Bynum thanks for bringing that forward. It is an opportunity to fund the projects a lower, lower interest rate at a longer term. So, it's definitely beneficial to us when we have these projects of great magnitude, so I do appreciate that question.

Anybody present would care to speak to this item? Let the record show nobody step forward. I would entertain a motion for approval. **Ms. Sparks** said we need an inclusion for fast-track. **Chairman Burroughs** said okay, the motion needs to include the fast-track. Clerk, did you get that the motion does include approval as well as fast-tracking the meeting mentioned.

Action: **Commissioner Burns made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to approve and fast-track to January 25, 2024, full commission meeting.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes" Henry, Lopez, Burns, Bynum, Kane, Burroughs.

Item No. 4 – 212959...RESOLUTION: ARMOURDALE PROCTER & GAMBLE TRAILHEAD

Synopsis: Approval of a resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and descriptions of lands to be acquired by the right and power of eminent domain for the location, laying-out, reconstruction, expansion, repair, maintenance, operation, and use of the Levee Trail

Armourdale Procter & Gamble Trailhead Project (KDOT Project No. 105 N-0779-01) in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works.

Troy Shaw, County Engineer, said so same thing on this one. This just happens to be coincidentally it showed up at the same time as other ones. This is a typical project we have. We received a grant for this Trail Head project as well as \$450,000 donated by Procter and Gamble for this as well. So, what we're talking about a Trail Head is basically this is right by the levee so the levee trail that runs through there a Trail Head is a place for cars to go park. There's amenities such as benches. Procter & Gamble providing some of the money, part of that covers artwork and other amenities of the area, shelters and things like that, so this is just to start keep moving forward with the project to get easements and right-of-way as necessary.

Chairman Burroughs said great, any questions from the Committee?

Commissioner Burns said is this fast-track too? **Mr. Shaw** said this one does not need to be fast-tracked.

Chairman Burroughs said I'll ask Clerk if there are any comments received from the public? **Ms. Sparks** said no hands are raised; no comments received. **Chairman Burroughs** said anybody present that would care to speak to this item? Let the record show no one stepped forward. I would entertain a motion.

Action: **Commissioner Burns made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes" Henry, Lopez, Burns, Bynum, Kane, Burroughs.

Item No. 5 – 212960...RESOLUTION: JAMES STREET TRAILHEAD

Synopsis: Approval of a resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and descriptions of lands to be acquired by the right and power of eminent domain for the location, laying-out, reconstruction, expansion, repair, maintenance, operation, and use of the Levee Trail Central Industrial District N. James Street Trailhead Project (KDOT Project No. 105 N-0781-01) in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works.

Troy Shaw, County Engineer, said this should be quick, it's basically the same as the other one. We received a grant to do Trail Head off of James Street down by the water treatment plant or wastewater treatment plant. So, same thing looking for approval to start working on right-of-way and easement as necessary.

Chairman Burroughs said Committee any questions? Clerk, any comments from the public? **Ms. Sparks** said no hands are raised; no comments received. **Chairman Burroughs** said anybody present care to speak to this item? Let the record show no one stepped forward. Again, I would now entertain a motion, and this does not include fast-track.

Action: **Commissioner Burns made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes" Henry, Lopez, Burns, Bynum, Kane, Burroughs.

Adjourn

Chairman Burroughs said thank you Committee, those were the only five action items needed this evening. I would entertain a motion for adjournment.

Action: **Commissioner Lopez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to adjourn.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes" Henry, Lopez, Burns, Bynum, Kane, Burroughs.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 PM.

JG