



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS Public Works Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: 03-01-2021

Prepared By: Dennis Carr – City Engineer

Agenda Item: Illinois American Water – Emergency Interconnect and Wholesale Water Sale

Explanation: Illinois American Water is responsible for providing water to the City of Washington Residents in the Washington Estates Area. Their system has a well, a treatment plant, and a water tower that serve this area. Their system is also currently isolated from any other water source. This isolation raises concerns for IAW as there is no emergency plan in place for if something were to happen to a well or the plant.

IAW has approached the City about connecting to the City's Water System along 24. This connection would be metered and would also have a pressure reducing valve that would lower the pressure to the pressure that their system is consistently pumped at. The connection would remain closed unless an emergency is declared and city staff be advised that the valve would be open. This connection would allow for IAW to use City provided water in case of an emergency. IEPA has recommended to water providers that they have a plan in place for emergencies. In the case of IAW, this would have to be a connection with a neighboring water source or a new treatment plant.

While the initial talks stemmed around an emergency connection, talks continued regarding a future bulk sale of water to IAW to supply Washington Estate with water. IAW would maintain their infrastructure, they would just purchase their water from the City instead of pumping it and treating it themselves.

IAW is constantly looking at ways to provide water at the cheapest rates possible. One of the ways they review is whether it make more sense to buy water in bulk from municipalities or whether they should invest in updating/upgrading their treatment plant and water tower. The purchase of wholesale water from the City could allow them to focus on maintenance, updates and improvements to the distribution system. This is an internal process for IAW, but the rate at which the city would approve of selling them water is a key factor.

In the future, if the City were to provide the water for IAW, there would be continued discussion between staff and IAW on whether they would want to maintain their water tower or if a second interconnection would be needed on the opposite side of their system for an additional belt and suspenders safety precaution that would allow them to remove their tower from the system.

Fiscal Impact: There would be no additional cost to the city as IAW would incur all of the costs for the interconnect facility along 24. The City would see an increase in water revenue for sale of water if an emergency were to take place.

Recommendation/Committee Discussion Summary: Staff recommends approval of an agreement to allow IAW to connect to the City Water System as well as continued discussions on the sale of wholesale water.

Action Requested: Discussion and recommendation on the concept of an interconnection with IAW and direction on the future wholesale water agreement.