

Public Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes December 17, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the McFarland Municipal Center by Chair Mary Pat Lytle. Roll call: Lytle, Eric Kryzenske, Marc Nielsen, Chris Fredrick, Pauline Boness.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: Jim Hessling, Director of Public Works; Brian Berquist, Town & Country Engineering; Phil McDade, Public Works staff.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES. None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

a. Discussion and action regarding the minutes from the Public Utilities/Works joint meeting held on November 19, 2019. Motion by Lytle, seconded by Fredrick, to approve the minutes. Approved 5-0-0.

b. Discussion and action regarding the minutes from the Public Utilities meeting held on November 19, 2019. Motion by Lytle, seconded by Fredrick, to approve the minutes. Approved 5-0-0.

4. BUSINESS

a. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the creation of a billing dispute policy and revisions to the billing dispute ordinance for sanitary sewer services. The committee discussed village policies, with Lytle saying residents can always take a billing dispute to the state Public Service Commission. Boness suggested the following change: change the title of ordinance 47-148 to Request for Reconsideration and appeal procedures in resolving disputes; add a 60-day period for the utility's response. The committee did not take action and wants to see changes made for its next meeting.

b. Update on the sewer rate study. Brian Berquist of Town & Country Engineering reviewed the sewer rate study with the committee, including a review of upgrades to the sewer system that are looming, including lift stations and sewer lines located near Lake Waubesa. The committee did not take action.

c. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board on purchasing "No Fault Sewer" extended coverage through the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Mutual Insurance Carrier. Lytle said purchasing no-fault insurance might lessen staff time spent on sewer discharge disputes. Fredrick said a no-fault insurance provision could open up the village to more claims, above what it would pay for the insurance. The committee wants clarification and will discuss at its next meeting.

d. Discussion on drainage improvements adjacent to the Lower Yahara Trail generally located on Elvehjem Road near Hidden Farm Road. Hessling said the planned improvements would be ready to go out to bid in February 2020.

e. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the Request for Proposals for yard waste and drop off site services. Lytle motioned, Boness seconded, to recommend accepting proposals for Option #1 and #1A presented in the committee packet for compost/brush services, along with a map of the brush pick-up zones and village requirements on brush size. Approved 5-0-0.

f. Presentation of the Public Works Monthly Report from the Director. Hessling provided an update on public works activities in the village for November 2019.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

a. Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Boness, seconded by Fredrick, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by Phil McDade