

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

Public Utilities Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Village trustee Ed Wreh called the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Committee to order at 6:03 PM in the Municipal Center Community Room. This meeting was held via Zoom webinar.

Members present: Marc Nielsen, Carrie Nelson, Edward Wreh, Eric Kryzenske

Members not present: Chris Fredrick, Pauline Boness

Staff Present: Village Administrator Matt Schuenke, Director of Public Works Jim Hessling, Streets and Utilities Superintendent Lee Igl, Assistant to the Public Works Director Aimee Irwin, Town & Country Engineering staff Brian Berquist and Tim Stieve.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

- a. *This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Village Board. Please remember this is a virtual meeting conducted through the Zoom online meeting platform. Zoom meeting attendees wishing to address the board may do so using the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform. You may state your name, address, and provide your comments to the board for their consideration. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the board should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. Members of the public may speak during public appearances or during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to aimee.irwin@mcfarland.wi.us to be included as part of the meeting.*

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. *Discussion and action regarding the minutes from the Public Utilities meeting held on September 21, 2021.*

Motion by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, second by Village Trustee Carrie Nelson, to approve the minutes from the Public Utilities meeting held on September 21, 2021.

Motion carries 3 - 0 - 1 by acclamation, with Marc Nielsen abstaining.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. *Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the 2022 Budget for the Utilities Fund (600).*

Matt Schuenke reviewed the provided Utilities Fund budget for 2022. Public charges for services are the bulk of the revenue for both the water and sewer utilities. The sewer utility enacted a rate increase in late 2020 which allows for a full year of data in 2021 at the new rates. Schuenke stated that a rate increase for sewer is likely after comparing the sewer revenue to expenses. The increase in sewer expense is driven by the increase in

expenses for Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). Schuenke stated that water revenues include the newly enacted rate increase and 2022 will be a full year at the new rates. Following the review of the revenue, Schuenke reviewed the expenses for water and sewer.

- Marc Nielsen asked if the village had received the annual letter from MMSD regarding 2022 rates. Schuenke responded that the letter had not been received but was expected in the next month.
- Nielsen inquired if the village had looked into utilizing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act for projects scheduled for 2022. Schuenke stated that these funds had not specifically been looked at but could be.
- Eric Kryzenske asked why the miscellaneous expense account is budgeted to be less in 2022. Schuenke stated that the funds budgeted are not being utilized.

Motion by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, seconded by Eric Kryzenske, to recommend approval to the Village Board regarding the 2022 Budget for the Utilities Fund (600). Motion carries 4 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

b. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the 2022 Budget for the Stormwater Utility Fund (605).

Schuenke reviewed the provided Stormwater Utility Fund budget for 2022. Revenue for this fund is mostly derived from stormwater unit charges for all properties within the village.

- Ed Wreh and Marc Nielsen asked for an explanation of the expense account labeled as rent. Schuenke explained that each utility pays rent to the village. An example would be the buildings utilized by the utilities.

Motion by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, seconded by Marc Nielsen, to recommend approval to the Village Board regarding the 2022 Budget for the Stormwater Utility Fund (605). Motion carries 4 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

c. Discussion regarding funding allocation to the utilities funds associated with street project.

Marc Nielsen presented his thesis that water rates are regressive compared to the property tax. Nielsen stated that assigning 50% of the paving costs to the water utility, can impact those individuals who have less ability to pay, who have less efficient appliances and the stormwater charge may not be fairly distributed for the varying amount of impervious surface on a property.

Brian Berquist summarized his background with other Wisconsin municipalities and stated that allocation varies greatly throughout municipalities.

Committee members discussed questions from Marc Nielsen that were responded to by Village Staff and Engineer. Committee members recommended continued discussion on this topic at a future meeting.

- d. Discussion regarding the board, commission, and committee restructuring project.
Ed Wreh provided background regarding the restructuring process that is occurring related to board, commission and committee structure. Included within the packet were comments provided by Marc Nielsen regarding his feedback related to this process. Committee members discussed the feedback provided and had additional discussion related to this process. The Committee of the Whole held their first review on October 11th and will continue their review at their next meeting on October 25th. Wreh provided that if committee members wish to provide additional feedback, they can send feedback to Matt Schuenke.
- e. Presentation of the Public Works Director's monthly report
Jim Hessling presented the monthly Public Works report for the month of September and asked if there were any questions.
- Ed Wreh asked for the costs and impact of the water main break on Badger Street that occurred in September. Hessling stated that an estimate of the costs could be gathered.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

- a. Joint meeting with Public Works on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, seconded by Village Trustee Carrie Nelson, to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. Motion passes 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Irwin
Assistant to the Public Works Director