

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND
Public Works & Utilities Committee Minutes

Monday, October 24, 2022 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Trustee Brandt called the regular meeting of the Public Works & Utilities Committee to order at 6:00 PM in the Municipal Center Community Room. This meeting was also held via Zoom webinar.

Members present: Hilary Brandt, Pauline Boness, Marv Meyers, Marc Nielsen, Eric Kryzenske, Chris Fredrick, Jerry Adrian, Carolyn Clow (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Members not present:

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

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

- a. *This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Public Works & Utilities Committee. Please remember this is a virtual meeting conducted through the Zoom online meeting platform. Zoom meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee 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 Committee for their consideration. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the Committee 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 public.works@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 September 26, 2022 Public Works & Utilities meeting.*
Motion by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Kryzenske, to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2022 Public Works & Utilities meeting. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. *Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the draft 2023 Budget for the Utilities Fund (600).*
Aimee Irwin presented and provided an overview of the 2023 Budget for the Utilities Fund. Included within the Utilities Fund is the consideration of a new utility focused position which would be a specialized role and unique from the public works crewperson role.

- Kryzenske asked if the overtime referenced in the budget was a factor in the consideration of the new utility focused position. Irwin responded that overtime was not a factor for this position. Kryzenske asked what factor is driving the new position. Hessling stated that some factors driving the new position include comments contained within the annual DNR report, keeping up with utility tasks such as valve turning, and being able to maintain our system at a high level.
- Nielsen asked about the proposed rate case for the water utility. Irwin stated the rate case would be a conventional rate case to evaluate moving the public fire protection charge to customers along with reviewing some additional intricacies for the future. Nielsen commented that moving the public fire protection charge to the customers exasperates his concerns about inequitable charges being placed on the utility customer. Schuenke mentioned that the decision to enter into a conventional rate case would not be decided this evening and that, given the projects within the 10-year plan, we need to consider rates to be evaluated on a more frequent and ongoing basis.
- Committee members discussed the allocation of street costs to the utilities.

Motion by Trustee Brandt, to recommend approval to the Village Board regarding the draft 2023 Budget for the Utilities Fund (600). Motion fails due to no second.

A motion by Nielsen, seconded by Trustee Brandt, to recommend to the Village Board to eliminate the assignment of any and all paving and curb and gutter costs related to street reconstructions to the water and sewer utilities in 2023. These costs include paving materials, paving sub-base, and reinforcing metals. Doing so will work towards more economically equitable utility rates for all village residents. The motion was withdrawn by Nielsen and the second was withdrawn by Trustee Brandt.

Motion by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Boness, to recommend approval to the Village Board regarding the draft 2023 Budget for the Utilities Fund (600).

b. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the draft 2023 Budget for the Stormwater Utility Fund (605).

Aimee Irwin presented and provided an overview of the 2023 Budget for the Stormwater utility fund.

Motion by Trustee Brandt, seconded by Fredrick, to recommend approval to the Village Board regarding the draft 2023 Budget for the Stormwater Utility Fund (605). Motion carries 8 - 0 - 0.

c. Updates on construction and planning for street construction projects.

Town and Country Engineering staff, Tim Stieve and Brian Berquist, provided an update regarding the 2022 construction projects along with upcoming construction projects in 2023 and Exchange Street in 2024. Stieve noted that the next public information meeting for Paulson Road is scheduled for November 2, 2022 at 6 p.m. in the training room of the Municipal Center.

- Boness asked if the Storck Road construction involved a connection to the

interstate. Hessling stated that a connection was there prior to construction.

- Adrian asked for clarification related to streets that had previously been identified for construction in 2023. Stieve and Berquist presented the updated long-term utility improvement plan which identified those roadways being moved to 2024. The updated plan was presented to the committee in July 2022.
- President Clow asked when another public information meeting would occur related to the Exchange Street project. Stieve stated that the tentative plan would be in the fall of 2023. Berquist added that another meeting could be held earlier in 2023 if desired.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Monday, November 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Fredrick, seconded by Meyers, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin boards in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Irwin
Assistant to the Public Works Director