

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

Public Works & Utilities Committee Minutes

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

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

Members present: Edward Wreh, Marc Nielsen, Chris Fredrick, Eric Kindschi

Members not present: Hilary Brandt, Pauline Boness, Matthew Coan

Staff Present: Village Administrator Matt Schuenke, Public Works Director Lee Igl, Assistant to the Public Works Director Aimee Irwin, and Baker Tilly staff Jodi Dobson.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

- a. *This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Public Works and Utilities Committee for items that are not on the agenda. Please remember this is a hybrid meeting conducted in person and through the Zoom online meeting platform. Meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee about items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Zoom attendees should type their name and address in the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform at this time. 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. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your comments to the Committee for their consideration. 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.*

Members of the public may also speak during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form or in the Question and Answer feature on Zoom.
None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. *Motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023 Public Works & Utilities Committee meeting.*

Motion by Trustee Wreh, seconded by Fredrick, to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023 Public Works & Utilities Committee meeting with amendments presented by Nielsen. Motion carries 4 - 0 - 0.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. *Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the conventional rate case for test year 2024, for submission to the Public Service Commission.*

Dobson presented the conventional rate case for test year 2024, noting one change from last month's committee meeting. The change adjusts the rate block from a declining rate block to a flat rate block otherwise known as uniform rate by the Public Service

Commission (PSC).

- Trustee Wreh asked what the difference is between declining and flat rate blocks. Dobson stated that declining rate blocks have the rate decrease as more water is used versus flat, which would have the rate remain the same regardless of usage.
- Fredrick asked if the documents enclosed included a flat rate that was being requested. Dobson responded that this item is noted within the Revenue Requirement document enclosed.
- Trustee Wreh asked what the PSC could change after the rate case is filed. Dobson responded that changes are not usually huge but they may ask for additional details or clarifications.
- Nielsen commented that public intervention could delay or impact the rates. Dobson explained that public comment can be provided in a variety of ways, which could impact the process depending on the comments.
- Fredrick asked if the next business item was contingent upon the rate case. Schuenke stated that public fire protection is separate from the rate case.

Motion by Trustee Wreh, seconded by Kindschi, to recommend approval to the Village Board regarding the conventional rate case for test year 2024 as presented and for submission to the Public Service Commission. Motion carries 3 - 0 - 1 with Nielsen abstaining.

b. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding Resolution 2023-16: A resolution approving the change of Public Fire Protection to a direct charge to utility customers.

Schuenke explained the proposed resolution would shift public fire protection from the tax levy to a direct charge to utility customers. Dobson explained the most common method for applying this charge is based on an equivalent meter method.

- Fredrick asked if this would be a new user charge. Dobson explained this would be a separate line item on the utility customer bill.
- Trustee Wreh asked if having this as a direct charge is more predictable. Dobson explained that an increase could be problematic for the tax levy given the constraints of the levy.
- Fredrick asked if this direct charge would be charged to non-water utility customers. Dobson stated this could be charged to non-water utility customers and data would need to be provided to the PSC.

Motion by Fredrick, seconded by Trustee Wreh, to recommend approval to the Village Board regarding Resolution 2023-16: A resolution approving the change of Public Fire Protection to a direct charge to all village residents including non-water utility customers. Motion carries 3 - 1 - 0 with Nielsen voting against.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Fredrick, the Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:49 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Irwin
Assistant to the Public Works Director