

Village of Whiting Utilities Committee Meeting

Minutes: December 2, 2008

1. Roll call. Meeting called to order by Chairman Hoppenrath at 5 PM. Kim Hoppenrath, Will Lehner, Mike Daniels, Paul Stroik and Frank Krush present. Also present: Jeff Schlegel, Matt Saloun, village Board members Chris Brindley and Cheryl Coulthurst, village residents Lynne Patrick and Bill Basler and Peter Hansen of Earth Tech/ EACOM.
2. Persons wishing to address the Committee. Chris Brindley on agenda item 5.
3. Review of November meeting minutes. The November 6, 2008 meeting minutes were reviewed. Stroik pointed out that the water tower address listed under #12 (Agenda item 11). Correspondence was incorrectly shown as 400 Water street. It should be 400 Walter street.
4. Discussion/possible action re utilities employee position.. Matt Saloun advised the committee that Matt Riberich expressed interest in possibly helping out every third weekend. This would spread out weekend duties currently shared by Matt and Jeff and the existing intern, who will be graduating in December and will no longer be available through the intern program. If this could be made to work, it might defer the need to hire another intern/employee. Chris Brindley expressed concern that this was brought to the Utility committee before talking to Public Works. Chairman Hoppenrath responded that he brought this before the Utility committee to determine if there even was interest before going before Public Works to determine Matt's availability. The committee in general supported the idea and asked chairman Hoppenrath to pursue with Public Works as a next step. In the interim, Jeff and Matt were directed to pursue bringing in another intern.
5. Discussion/possible action re hydrant rental charges. In the last full water rate study, the Public Service Commission increased the fee, that the utility charges the village for fire protection, by \$38,000 to \$95,000. The existing fee is currently passed on to village residents through the real estate tax assessment process. Chris Brindley advised the committee that due to state mandated levy constraints, the village is strapped for funds and will likely have to defer road maintenance projects, particularly the scheduled Cherry street upgrade. To provide funds for this needed road project and allow the village to possibly increase the emergency fund balance, which is near the three month's operating minimum, he requested that the utility committee recommend a change to include the entire fee in customers' quarterly water bills as a separate line item. Krush pointed out that it is advantageous, for any village resident who itemizes deductions on their federal tax return, to have the fee included in their property taxes. Also, the assessment is likely currently allocated based on property value where as this proposed change would spread it to all water customers equally. Motion by Stroik, seconded by Lehner to table this item until Chairman Hoppenrath can find out what the actual quarterly charge would be to each customer if either the increase or the entire amount were passed on to them in their water bill.
6. Discussion/possible action re Nitrate removal system work. Jeff Schlegel reported that he needed more time to do the research and asked that this item be deferred until

next month. Chairman Hoppenrath tabled this item until more research can be completed on alternative solutions.

7. Discussion/possible action re recommendations from audit report. Krush gave a brief update on a phone conversation he had with John Gasper from Workhorse. It appears that there are some audit issues than can be resolved with more Workhorse reports/assistance. Krush will meet with John and Debi on December 3 at the village office to review audit report specifics and address any corrective action that can be taken with more Workhorse software utilization. Krush will report findings at the next meeting.
8. Update on Wastewater treatment Facility. Chairman Hoppenrath gave an update.
 - Equipment is slow to arrive. Aeration blowers have been installed.
 - Building over final clarifier done. Small section of concrete still needs to be finished but won't be done until all equipment is installed to alleviate possible damage to the concrete.
 - Painters painting in garage and basement roof. Basement walls sandblasted but will be left unpainted. CD Smith authorized \$8,400 of sandblasting prior to village approval. Will need to be discussed further.
 - Ceiling insulation, doors and openers installed in the equipment storage building.
 - The skimmer arm on the secondary clarifier broke and has been welded. May be related to previous vandalism damage.
 - There was a sludge press problem due to dust from construction equipment which has been corrected.
9. Discussion/possible action re multiple vouchers. Motion by Stroik, seconded by Daniels to recommend payment of current multiple vouchers to the Village Board. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
10. Operation and Maintenance Report.
 1. The Wastewater Treatment plant and Village Water System did meet all requirements for the month of November 2008
 2. Village of Whiting pumpage = 10,772,000; Treated = 8,476,267; Raw = 2,295,733
 3. New Page pumpage #1 – 26,794,512; #2 – 18,915,079; #3 – 20,264,448; Total 65,974,039
 4. K.C. pumpage – 30,978,982
 5. Continue with WWTP construction
 6. Problem with the Secondary Clarifier Skimmer Arm (The A frame unit pulled apart from the bottom frame and fell into the bottom of the secondary clarifier tank. CD Smith assisted the Utility Staff in the temporary repair). This unit will be repaired or rebuilt after the new Secondary Clarifier is put on line with the start up of the new Plant.
 7. Replaced the heater in the River Pines Lift Station
 8. Problems with the sludge press (Crane Eng. here to repair – sand blasting and construction dust in contacts)
 9. Checked out customer complaint about possible slow sewer at 1807 School St. (checked the sewer main and found no problems). Reported back to the home owner

10. Replaced the sewer lateral at 3005 Post Rd. (Hagens Sew & Vac). The original sewer lateral had a root problem from trees being planted over or near to the sewer lateral (The property owner is responsible for the complete cost of the this lateral replacement)

11. Winterize the irrigation line under School St. for Community Gardens at McDill School

Motion made by Krush, seconded by Lehner to approve the O&M report as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. Correspondence

- Chairman Hoppenrath reported that he followed up on the letter received from Alltel. He discussed with Michael Chung from MD-7 representing Alltel who advised that some antennas will likely be removed when Verizon takes over. They will be looking to renegotiate the rental contract. Hoppenrath advised him that we are aware that we are receiving less than surrounding communities and any renegotiation will need to come before this committee for approval.

12. Such other matters as permitted by law. The next meeting to discuss sewer ordinances is scheduled for 12/9/2008 at 5 PM.

13. Adjourn. Motion made by Lehner to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Frank Krush

Recording Secretary