

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Bernstein, Deloach, Pehrson; Town Board Liaison: Kermes; Clerk: Short.

Absent: Hesse, Groschen and McCune with notice.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions / Deletions): Deloach moved approval of the agenda as submitted. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 14, 2016 MINUTES: Bernstein moved approval of the January 14, 2016 Minutes. Deloach seconded. Ayes all.

CONSENT AGENDA: Deloach moved approval of the Consent Agenda as follows: 4A) Receive Monthly Sewer & Water Report; 4B) Receive EDAB Minutes; 4C) Receive Missed Pick-Ups Refuse & Recycling Report. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

There was discussion regarding colored water. A question was asked when a customer has to let water run due to discolored water if there should be some water quantity deducted from their bill. It was noted that advice should be provided to customers to run the water for 20 minutes to allow the water to clear. It was the consensus that the amount of water used to clear the pipes is minimal and would not require any reduction in total amount of water used for the quarter.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: **Fire Hydrant Modernization Kits:** The Board approved the purchase of fire hydrant modernization kits to continue to rehabilitate the original Pacer fire hydrants that were installed in the 1960's. There have been problems with the original Pacer's steamer nozzles loosening up. The modernization kits replace the upper nozzle section, the hydrant rod, and the valve seat section. Purchase of the modernization kits from HD Supply cost \$21,150.00 with funding from the Water Fund. **Lift Station #3 Rehabilitation:** Lift Station #3 was installed in 1971 and has reached a point where the components are obsolete and the lift station needs to have a rehabilitation of the equipment to function reliably. The Town Board authorized TKDA to prepare plans and specifications at a cost not to exceed \$29,600.00 with funding from

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the Sewer Operating Fund. **2016 Sanitary Sewer Lining:** Bids for the Overlake Avenue sanitary sewer lining project were received. Low bidder was Insituform in the amount of \$35,963.25 with funding from the Sewer Fund. The lining is for the main line pipe and no homes are involved. There will also be manhole rehabilitation in this stretch. The cost of the project is part of the Township's \$70,000 per year commitment to deal with infiltration. **Water Efficiency Grant:** The Metropolitan Council awarded the Township \$24,000 as part of their inaugural Water Efficiency Grant Program. Grant funding may be provided for residents who use water efficient fixtures and appliances, such as toilets and laundry washers.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Clerk reported that the Public Works Director was not able to be present at tonight's meeting. The members complimented the Public Works Director on his comprehensive reports. If anyone has any questions the Public Works Director will be happy to answer them.

RAMSEY COUNTY SOURCE-SEPARATED ORGANICS (SSO) COLLECTION UPDATE: John Springman, Ramsey County Environmental Health, provided an annual review for the Town Board on January 20, 2016. There is residential source separated organics collection going on in some communities and there are a number of haulers who could do the collection. However, some residents are not participating as they do not know what wastes are acceptable. Ramsey County has done extensive public notice and outreach. Their compost site has doubled in participation. They have gone from a two cubic yard dumpster to a four cubic yard dumpster at the Ramsey County compost site and other locations. Ramsey County, at the direction of the State, is promoting management of kitchen waste. Containers would hold a week's capacity and could be stored outside. As more information becomes available the Clerk will provide it to the Utility Commission.

STORM WATER UTILITY PROJECTS: The updated Stormwater Projects List was reviewed. Item #4 on the previous list of projects included #4) Barry Lane sediment basin near 5312 Barry Lane. The sediment needs to be removed and the structure repaired. Barry Lane has been eliminated from the updated list because the Public Works Director applied for, and received, a matching grant from Ramsey County to do this work.

Bernstein moved to recommend to the Town Board that the project for Barry Lane to remove sediment and repair the structure proceed, noting that the Township has received a matching grant from Ramsey County to pay for \$20,000 for the work. Deloach seconded. Ayes all.

There was discussion regarding the balance held for many years in the Stormwater Fund for the Stillwater Street improvements. It was the consensus that Public Works Director and Town Engineer look at Stillwater Street so as to be able to determine if any of those funds could be used for other necessary stormwater projects that are being deferred because those funds are being held. It would be helpful to update costs and

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tasks for the project such as concrete curb and gutter help. After this information is available the Utility Commission can decide how to proceed with projects. Questions included: 1) are we serious about the project; 2) what is the schedule; 3) rethink the project and maybe have options; 4) have the Town Engineer provide advice since there is a lot that needs to be done; 5) can the project be done in segments; 6) if the project is phased, what other projects can be moved up on the list.

Deloach moved to recommend to the Town Board that the Stillwater Street project be studied so the Utility Commission can better understand the overview of the project and timing which would better enable them to move other projects forward. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

ORDINANCE NO. 87 – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT: The Clerk noted that the Utility Commission had designated Nancy Pehrson a committee-of-one to review the Ordinance. Comments have been received from the Public Works Director, Town Engineer and Nancy. These comments are being reviewed and incorporated.

Pehrson asked if there could be a fact sheet for homeowners to better understand what applies to them. The Clerk reported that the Building Inspector does have other fact sheets so it would not be a new idea to the Township. This information could also be placed on the Town's website, on Facebook, and in News & Views. Deloach stated that all information should be in understandable language. The Clerk will pass on all comments. The matter may be reviewed if necessary.

TRASH-TO-TREASURE – APRIL 30, 2016 – POSSIBLE SIGN PURCHASE: Trash to Treasure Day is scheduled for April 30, 2016. The Clerk reported that the Town received a request to help with the purchase of signs. It was the consensus that the signs are needed and the cost should be minimal. It was the consensus that the information should also be placed on the Town's website, Facebook, and in News & Views.

REPUBLIC SERVICES: A) YARD WASTE CARTS DISCUSSION; B) RECYCLING STATISTICS: The Clerk noted that there had been previous discussion regarding yard waste carts. He reported that Republic is considering offering carts at no charge and as an incentive for the Town to extend their contract which expires at the end of this year. There was no opposition to the proposal.

The Annual Material Tonnage for 2015 was reviewed. The single sort is great! The information provided is a good resource which shows that the Town is recycling more and in what areas recycling should be promoted.

The Clerk reported that the Recycle Bank program is going out of business. Anyone with points should use them.

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NEXT MEETING DATE / AGENDA ITEMS: The next Utility Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2016. The Clerk noted that Tuesday, March 8th is the Annual Town Meeting and encouraged members to attend. It was the consensus that the Utility Commission meeting not be held unless Chair Groschen and the Clerk determine there needs to be one.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan J. Clemens
Recording Secretary