

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 12, 2016**

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

Present: Bernstein, Deloach, Groschen, McCune, Pehrson; Clerk: Short; Finance Officer: Kelly.

Absent: Hesse with notice

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

APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2016 MEETING MINUTES: McCune moved approval of the April 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: **Southeast Area Sanitary Sewer Relining Project:** Two neighborhood meetings were held for residents affected by the project. There was not much objection to the project. The residents were more interested in hearing about the plan. A few residents at the second meeting had concerns about water quality, i.e. brown water. **Public Works New Hires:** The Public Works Department has two new maintenance workers. One position was due to a vacancy and the other was a new position. The Public Works Department has eight public works maintenance workers. **New Web Site:** The Town has a new web site which will be available for use on May 26, 2016. The new site is user friendly and will walk the user through areas they want to connect with. **Hammond Road Water Tower:** The northeast tower has been inspected and cleaned. **Pine Hill Subdivision:** The subdivision is being graded and will be authorized for bidding. **Ayde Property:** The Township purchased this property several years ago and divided it into two parcels. Tecweigh purchased one parcel in 2011 and built their facility there. Tecweigh designs and manufactures in-motion electronic weighing and metering productions for dry material handling. Nextern has just purchased the other property and will be constructing an 18,600 square foot building. Nextern fabricates equipment for manufacturers of products for defense, medical, consumer electronics and industrial market. **Tamarack Nature Center:** The Town Board approved modifications to the nature center. Modifications include parking lots, relocation of dumpsters, gravel parking lot for non-programmed bus parking; realignment of the access to be across from Lorane Avenue.

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PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Director was at a conference and his report was provided by the Clerk. **Rehabilitation of Lift Station #5:** This lift station will be on line soon. The light has been installed. **Brown Water:** There were a number of complaints regarding discolored water. Public Works flushes in areas where there is a concentration of brown water. No water samples are taken.

UTILITY RATES REVIEW: There was a comprehensive review of the Water Fund, fixed flat rates, volume usage rates; Stormwater Fund rates to cover operation; Sanitary Sewer Fund, fixed flat rates and volume usage rates. The Finance Officer reviewed the 2016 rates for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater and the proposed rates. After review it was the consensus that \$100,000 be taken out of the cash reserves in the Water Fund. The Finance Officer will run a new schedule for rates for review at the next Utility Commission meeting. It was the consensus that the storm water rate be increase by \$3.00 per billing to go from the current \$17.00 to \$20.00. It was noted that there is not enough funding for storm water projects and that there are increased costs relative to mandates associated with storm water. There are no outside funding sources for storm water projects other than assessments or funding from the watershed districts. The fixed rate for sanitary sewer needs some increase to fund projects. The volume rate looks at increasing 25% each of the next 5 years to fund operations and projects. The Finance Officer will prepare another schedule for review relative to water, sewer and storm water rates.

REPUBLIC SERVICES CONTRACT – CONTRACT RENEWAL DISCUSSION – RATE COMPARISON CHART: A Waste and Recycling Rate Comparison of monthly rates for six communities were reviewed. The Township monthly rates includes these extra items that the other five communities don't have: 1) free yard waste pickup all year; 2) free, unlimited, non-standard bulky items pickups; 3) free service at all Town owned properties and parks; 4) free post - "Trash to Treasure Day" pickup; 5) free pickup of three appliances a year, per home; 6) Clean Up Day – no charge for all labor (Republic employees) and equipment (trucks and containers); 7) Design, print and mail "Residents Guide" to all households; 8) Republic Services bills and collects on all invoices. The Clerk will have more data for next month's meeting.

At 9:06 p.m. Deloach moved to extend the meeting curfew until 9:10 p.m. McCune seconded. Ayes all.

NEXT MEETING DATE / AGENDA ITEMS: The next Utility Commission meeting date is Thursday, June 9, 2016. Agenda items to include: 1) Utility Rates; 2) Tour.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan J. Clemens
Recording Secretary

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