

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 14, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Bernstein, Deloach, Groschen, Hesse, McCune, Pehrson; Town Board Liaison: Kermes; Staff Liaison: Short; Public Works Director: Reed; Guests: Tom Chovan and Randy Johnson, Republic Services.

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

APPROVAL OF JUNE 9, 2016 MEETING MINUTES: Hesse moved approval of the June 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: VLAWMO Joint Powers Agreement: VLAWMO has drafted a new 10 year Joint Powers Agreement with member communities. There had been questions regarding capital improvements which can be approved with member approval. State statute clarifies the issue but it did not show up in the Joint Powers Agreement. Local communities have veto authority. **Township Day:** The 2016 Township Day event will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2016 at Polar Lakes Park.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Director provided the June Public Works Department Activity Report for June 2016. **Well #5:** Well #5 is not on-line yet. There was an issue with the chlorine valve. John Berrigan, TKDA is assisting with the chlorine adjustments. **Water Supply Plan:** Public Works Director and Town Engineer are working on the renewal of the Water Supply Plan. The Plan includes water conservation measures. The Plan is due by the end of the year. **Sanitary Sewer Line:** The Overlake sanitary sewer line from Hugo Road west to Auburn Avenue is lined. Man hole spray lining to be completed in the near future. Inflow and infiltration investigative work has begun with the televising of sanitary sewer in Buffalo Street, Williams Avenue, and Ridgeway. The Town Engineer has the televising reports for review. **Road Work:** Ramsey County will pave Portland Avenue between Buffalo Street and Short Street.

MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 14, 2016

They will edge mill and overlay Eagle Street from East Bald Eagle Boulevard to Park Street in August. This is a recent add to the Ramsey County's project list. **Discolored Water:** Due to flow disruptions from high water demand from local manufacturing and other reasons, iron sediment has been stirred up which causes discolored water. Wilbert, Inc. is adding a second chilling tower at their manufacturing Plant on Otter Lake Road / White Bear Parkway. This will eliminate their high demand for water. **Lift Station #3:** Are working on design consideration.

WEST AVENUE LAKE ACCESS – RAIN GARDEN: Ramsey County has a proposed project for a two-part rain gardens to filter water before it goes to Bald Eagle Lake. They also propose shoreline restoration. There will be a shoreline buffer along with a handicap accessible ramp. Bald Eagle Lake is considered an impaired water body and the rain gardens are anticipated to help with runoff to the lake. This area is a Town park although not on the park inventory list. The Town mows the grass and empties the trash container. Other than that there is no park activity other than passive use. The Township's share of the rain garden and shoreline buffer project would be \$15,000. It was the consensus that the project is a good idea but that there is no funding available in 2016. The Utility Commission would consider this project along with all the other proposed projects for the 2017 stormwater projects if funding is available.

Pehrson moved to inform the Town Board that the Utility Commission recognizes that water quality in Bald Eagle Lake is important but that there is no funding for 2016 and recommends that the West Avenue Lake Access – Rain Garden be placed on the list along with other stormwater projects for 2017 if funding is available. Hesse seconded. Ayes all.

REPUBLIC SERVICES CONTRACT – RENEWAL DISCUSSION: **Subscription Services:** The Waste and Recycling Rate Comparison report prepared by Republic Services for six communities, including the Township was reviewed. The Township's rates are higher because the Town's monthly rate includes the following extra items that the other five communities do not: 1) free yard waste pick up all year; 2) free, non-standard bulky item pickups; 3) free service at all Town-owned properties and parks; 4) free pickup of 3 appliances a year, per home; 5) Clean Up Day: no charge for all labor (Republic employees) and equipment (trucks and containers); 6) design, print and mail "Residents Guide" to all households; 7) Republic Services bills and collects on all invoices. White Bear Township has the largest number of extra services offered by far.

2016 Extra Services: 1) Spring Clean Up (labor and equipment) - \$14,000 plus disposal – approximately \$3,599 plus CEC and taxes; 2) Appliances: 369 appliances in 2015 at \$30/unit = \$11,070; 3) bulky items: 4200 at \$10/item - \$42,000; 4) service to Town-owned property: Public Works (1) 6 yd weekly and (4) yd EOW \$1,000; 5) parks = \$4,000; 6) yard waste quantities: 2112 yards @ 669 lbs./yard = \$706 tons @ \$37.00/ton = \$26,139.

MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 14, 2016

Recycling Volumes: Recycling volumes for the years 2009 through 2014 were reviewed. There was an increase in volume in 2009 but have remained fairly steady for the past few years.

Refuse Volumes: Refuse volumes for the years 2009 through 2014 were reviewed. In July of 2010 single sort recycling began. Refuse volumes declined in 2009 but have been steady for the past few years.

Republic Services Refuse and Recycling Agreement: Republic Services would like to renew their contract. Tom Chovan, Republic Services reported that new rates will be proposed. He reported that there is tax on the Township rates. This tax goes to the County to subsidize refuse derived fuel operations. He reported that whoever the Township chooses as a hauler that is where there the refuse will go. The Township does not want the refuse to go to a landfill. A question was asked if yard waste was an optional service, would it result in a higher rate for these who choose it? Tom Chovan stated that the service would lose efficiency. He noted that 706 tons of yard waste was collected from the Township. He reported that Republic would be willing to have people to opt out of the yard waste option if they do not use it. He noted that people find creative ways to get rid of yard waste. He asked if Republic should proceed with what they would like to see in year #1 and maybe do something different in year #2. He asked what the Utility Commission would like to see in the contract. The Clerk reported that the contract was amended in 2015 so the contract is up to speed. It sounds fair to request a proposal to have a one year contract; 2 year contract; or 3 year contract. Tom Chovan reported that plastic bags are no longer collected for recycling. He noted that plastic bags cause havoc on machines.

Tom Chovan stated that they are at a point in the contact where it needs to be replaced. He stated that Republic looks forward to working with the Town on the contract. It was the consensus that Tom Chovan come back with a proposal based on discussion at tonight's meeting. A question was asked about the refuse carts. Tom Chovan stated that they are backing off on requiring customers to use their refuse carts. The driver will know the route and which addresses do not use carts. They will then pull the truck where they can reach and pick up the bags.

It was the consensus that the contract should be take-all and not a-la-cart. It was the consensus that if Republic is competitive, provides good service, and the residents are getting a value that they would recommend to stay with them. Tom Chovan will come back with proposals for Utility Commission review.

NEXT MEETING DATE / AGENDA ITEMS: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 11, 2016. Agenda items will include: 1) tour; 2) Republic Services Contract.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 14, 2016**

Joan J. Clemens
Recording Secretary