

**MINUTES  
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016**

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

Present: Bernstein, Deloach, Groschen, Hesse, McCune, Pehrson; Clerk: Short; Public Works Director: Reed; Guest: Randy Johnson, Division Manager, Blaine Republic Services.

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

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 11, 2016 MEETING MINUTES:** Deloach moved approval of the August 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Pehrson seconded. Ayes all.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Hesse moved approval of the Consent Agenda as follows: 4A) Receive Monthly Sewer and Water Report; 4B) Receive EDAB Minutes; 4C) Receive Republic Services Monthly Service Report. Deloach seconded. Ayes all.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:** The Public Works Director reviewed Public Works Department activity for August 2016. **Colored Water:** Colored water in the 16" watermain was due to work being done on Lift Station #2. Black specs in water was sent to a lab for analysis. The specs are a combination of various minerals; 25% magnesium; 11% copper; and manganese oxide. The Hammond Road water tower has sediment which settles on the bottom of the tower. It does not have a mixer that puts air into the water to keep it from settling. The tower will be cleaned and aeration incorporated. The valve will be opened at least one time each month to drain sediment. **Treatment Plant #1:** The size of the inductor has been increased for the chlorine feed. John Berrigan, TKDA will work with the contractor. **South Shore Sewer Lining Project:** Public Hearing will be held on September 19<sup>th</sup> for the project. **I&I Work:** The 2016 I&I televising program of Buffalo Street, Williams Avenue, and Ridgeway has been awarded to Hydro Clean. The televising work will begin the week of October 3, 2016. **Water Meter Repair:** There have been discussions with Midwest Testing concerning the next step in commercial meter testing. The Public Works Director will be visiting businesses with 2" turbometers to see if they are PMM or Positive Displacement meters, the smaller residential meters are reliable. There have been a few problems with registers. Eventually the Town will be

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able to alert residents if they have high water usage (after all radio reads are in). It was the consensus that a review of how the utility billing is done would be of interest to the Utility Commission.

McCune moved to request the Finance Officer to review with the Utility Commission how the billing is done and what the billing incorporates. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

**REPUBLIC SERVICES CONTRACT – RENEWAL DISCUSSION:** Randy Johnson, Republic Services reviewed the Township Waste & Recycling Service. The outline is broken down into three options, at the request of the Utility Commission, which shows the concept of what rates would be for each option.

<b>Option #1:</b>	<b>Cart Size</b>	<b>Monthly Rate</b>
	32 gallon	\$18.46
	65 gallon	\$ 21.01
	95 gallon	\$23.35

**Notes:** \$1.00 per month price reduction across the board; Republic will purchase 2,000 new carts and make sure every household uses their carts only. There will be a new \$1.00 per month cart rental fee. All trucks will be automated, eliminating extra-bag-service outside of the cart. Rates include monthly invoicing and collection (estimated to be \$.50/month). Rates include Spring Clean Up. This option includes yard waste. 2 bulky items and 3 appliances remain.

<b>Option #2</b>	<b>Cart Size</b>	<b>Monthly Rate</b>
	32 gallon	\$ 18.96
	65 gallon	\$ 21.51
	95 gallon	\$ 23.85

**Notes:** This option allows residents to continue to use their personal cans/carts if they choose. Rates include \$.50 per month for invoicing and collection. Rates include \$1.00 per month for the Spring Clean Up. This option includes yard waste. No bulk and no extras.

<b>Option #3</b>	<b>Cart Size</b>	<b>Monthly Rate</b>
	32 gallon	\$ 14.46
	65 gallon	\$ 17.01
	95 gallon	\$ 19.35

**Notes:** Rates include \$.50 per month for invoicing and collection. Rates include \$1.00 per month for the Citywide Clean Up. Residents can subscribe to yard waste service if they want it. The rate is \$99.00 per year **OR** they can do a \$2.50 per bag “Occasional Need” option (8 bag minimum).

<b>Current Township Pricing:</b>	<b>Cart Size</b>	<b>Monthly Rate</b>
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32 gallon	\$ 20.72
65 gallon	\$ 22.46
95 gallon	\$ 25.58

**Notes: For the current pricing Republic Services provides these additional services at no charge:** 1) prints, mails, collects on all invoicing/payments; 2) no charge for yard waste service to every household; 3) provides free bulky item collection (furniture & appliances) to each household; 4) provides service to all Town-owned properties and parks; 5) provides all labor/employees and equipment for Clean Up Day; 6) prints and mails the annual waste and recycling mailer to all households.

Randy Johnson reviewed the 2016 monthly Waste and Recycling rates for White Bear Township vs the City of Stillwater. Although the Stillwater rates are slightly lower, Stillwater does not offer a Clean Up Day for its residents. The Annual Clean Up Day in White Bear Township costs Republic Services between \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year for labor, trucks, equipment and disposal. The Annual Waste & Recycling mailer for the Township costs Republic Services \$2,400 for printing and mailing. Stillwater's hauler does not mail anything annually. White Bear Township residents are NOT charged anything for extra bags they have alongside their cart. Stillwater residents are charged \$1.50 per bag, plus tax.

**Comments, suggestions and questions include:**

- There are challenges to switching to a totally automated serviced.
- Would like to see a chart for bulk items costs.
- Keep yard waste at no extra charge.
- Is there really a value in a totally automated service as it relates to bulky items and appliances?
- If the yard waste service were not provided people would not be happy.
- Do not get a lot of complaints about Republic Services' service now.
- Keep the Spring Clean Up Day.
- How many calls does Republic Services receive regarding pick up? What percentage?
- Need to see 2017 rates.
- We need the best unlimited bids we can get.
- Would like to know how many residences take advantage of the unlimited level of refuse service.
- Residents are happy now and feel have good rates.
- A five-year contract may be too long.
- Should there be a cap on bulky items?
- How much would the rate go down if the bulky items were limited?

Randy Johnson will come back with: 1) yard waste included in rates; 2) Spring Clean Up included in rates; 3) exceedance of bulky items (looking for repeat offenders); 4) update current contract.

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**NEXT MEETING DATE / AGENDA ITEMS:** The next meeting will be Thursday, October 13, 2016. Agenda items will include: 1) contract discussion; 2) annual tour.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan J. Clemens  
Recording Services