

**MINUTES  
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Bernstein, Cremons, DeLoach, DeMars, Fredericks, Groschen;  
Commissioner: McCune; Clerk: Christopherson; Public Works Director:  
Reed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions):** There was some discussion of items 5 and 7; Sue Vento is currently occupied with an interview process, and staff is looking to take a different approach with the Ordinance 54 process and will be updated of the process at a later date. Bernstein moved to approve the agenda as submitted, striking items 5 and 7 from the agenda. Fredericks seconded. Ayes all.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2022:** DeLoach made the motion to approval of the November 10, 2022 minutes. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Bernstein made the motion to remove all consent agenda items for discussion. DeLoach seconded. Ayes all.

There was some discussion of item 4B. The reports have been received via Excel spreadsheet finally, which the Commission is very excited about. There was some discussion of Republic and weather issues. There was some discussion of the communication methods and it was noted that if their staff is on schedule there shouldn't be any communications and if they are late a simple mass text would do.

DeMars moved to approve the consent agenda as presented as follows: A) Receive Monthly Service Report; B) Receive Republic Call Log; C) Receive Solid Waste Abatement Report; D) Receive Water Leak Report; E) Receive Open Water & Radio Replacement Report. DeLoach seconded. Ayes: all.

**LUMEN FIBER OPTIC INSTALLATION --DISCUSS:** The Public Works Director introduced this agenda item as Creek Enterprise, Inc. wanting to increase their fiber

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optic services and is requesting the application to install 29,780 feet of aerial fiber on existing poles and directional boring 184 feet of 1.25 inch conduit and 2,066 feet of 2 inch conduit within the Township. All correspondences are in the packet. A few maps of the locations where the fiber is to be placed is attached. There was some discussion of this agenda item. Commissioner McCune asked how this agenda item differs to what Xcel Energy or Comcast proposes and it gets put on the Town Board consent agenda. There is not much difference other than the representative wants to proceed quickly. There was some discussion of the agenda item and the Commission would like to know some answers, like how long will the project take?; does it affect businesses or residents?; and how deep will the boring be?; how will this help the residents of White Bear Township; among others.

There was some discussion of whether or not the reason behind this installation is to help residents or simply because the company wants to rush the project. The company probably wouldn't remove the fiber if the company doesn't make money. There was some speculation of customers in the area that they already want to service.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:** The Public Works Department Activity for December 2022. There was some discussion of a water leak. He presented that he is applying for funding available through an **I & I Task Force**. He will report back the results. The goal is to have funding available for residents if they need to replace piping, etc. There was a question of the **water meter readings**, what happens next. There was some discussion of the fee schedule, which is how the Town is currently charging non-complying residents.

**NEXT MEETING DATE / AGENDA ITEMS:** The next meeting date will be February 9, 2023.

DeLoach moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Wede  
Recording Secretary