

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): Bernstein moved to approve the agenda as submitted, subtracting item Sue Vento as she is sick, and adding item 9A) Gem Lake Request for Township Clean-up Day. DeLoach seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2023: DeLoach made the motion to approval of the January 12, 2023 minutes, noting Dale's correction regarding the I & I funding that hasn't been applied yet, he is just on the task force to learn how the funds will be disbursed. 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 B. The members did receive the Call Log on Excel via email, though the Chair did not. There was some discussion of item D, it was noted that the funds will get used up rather quickly, before the end of the year. There was some discussion of item E, a couple of questions were asked regarding the formatting of the analysis. There was discussion of December. Staff will confirm the numbers are correct and it may be on the Consent Agenda for March 9th's meeting, since it is in draft form right now.

There was some discussion of item A, wondering if the vendor could add the year after the month.

Fredericks 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 Efficiency Rebate Program Update; E) Receive 2022 Irrigation Analysis Report. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

SEASONAL HOLD FOR SNOWBIRDS: The Town Clerk introduced this agenda item to the Commission. Staff had noted that in the past there has been some requests about

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seasonal holds. The Town did use to offer it but there were some issues with it. In the last couple of years there have been some more requests for that offering. There was a question of whether or not Republic offers this as an option. The Town could offer a credit, but it was noted that other communities does not allow seasonal holds. There was some discussion of how the Town could request an MOU for seasonal pickups. In the past the Republic Representative had some big pushback regarding seasonal holds.

There was a question as to whether or not any other surrounding communities have Republic and also have seasonal hold options that the Town could bring up to Republic in negotiation. Staff can look into it. Staff can look into it and respond to the residents as such: that Town staff are looking into it, that Town staff are trying to renegotiate the contract.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Department Activity for January 2022. The **Mass Meter Upgrade Project** of 2019 and 2020 still has some accounts outstanding that staff is striving to get upgraded. The **Sensus Radio Warranty Replacement Project** of 2021 and 2022 is in similar status, except 14 accounts instead of 12. There was some discussion of the importance of increasing fees or implementing a better fee system, but the Ordinance needs to be changed first. The Public Works Department has a **new employee** and a **new Township Day Movie in the Park Event Coordinator**. He described the 2 meetings so far of the **I & I Taskforce** of which the Public Works Director is a part. There are at least 3 more meetings that have been scheduled.

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

Gem Lake Request for Township Clean-up Day: The Town Clerk introduced that last year around this time Gem Lake requested piggybacking on the Township's clean up day, but the Town Clerk declined the request because the Town wanted to replicate the success of the 2021 clean up day. Gem Lake is requesting again, but Republic may charge more. What the Clerk suggests is having Gem Lake residents who want to participate in the clean up day sign up ahead of time and pay a fee of, for example \$10 or so. Then, the residents can come to the event as well and their payment will help cover some of the disposal fee the Township sees. There was some discussion of the fee. There was some consensus that the Commission is receptive to the idea but would like some details, like payment, worked out. The Township residents pay for this clean up day function, so the Township would be happy to facilitate helping Gem Lake residents have this amenity, but would appreciate some compensation. The Utility Commission had consensus of wanting to charge based on number of homes within the city, then everyone is able to use the clean up day.

DeMars moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Wede

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Recording Secretary