

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 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. DeMars seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2023: Fredericks made the motion to approval of the February 9, 2023 minutes. DeMars seconded. Ayes all.

CONSENT AGENDA: 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 Efficiency Rebate Program Update. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

REPUBLIC SEASONAL HOLD -- CONTINUE DISCUSSION: The Town Clerk recapped this agenda item to the Commission. Supervisor McCune dug into Republic's online account some, requesting a seasonal hold for his residence. He found that under his account as a White Bear Township resident he could not request a seasonal hold. Under the Town's current contract agreement, the residents don't have that ability. There was some discussion of whether or not the Town should open up the contract and open discussion of adding a seasonal hold for the few residents who have requested it. The Town Clerk noted that there is a handful of residents that have requested this option.

There was discussion of how the pricing is based off of service for year-round service. There is only another winter on this contract, so the Township can open discussions on this item soon. It was decided that the Town Clerk and staff should respond to the residents as such.

TOWNSHIP DAY CLEAN UP -- DISCUSS: The Town Clerk mentioned to the Commission at the February meeting of Gem Lake's request to piggyback on the Township's clean up day in May. Staff met with the City Clerk and Mayor of Gem Lake, which is suggesting the Town calculate a fee for Gem Lake residents to participate.

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Gem Lake threw out the number \$500 for a dozen Gem Lake residents to participate. The addresses of the few Gem Lake residents can be added on to the list of Township residents. It was noted that this might be a good starting point, as the Town can gauge if that amount will help foot the bill. The Town is charged through SCORE funds based on what Republic hauls away from the clean up event, so the sum that Gem Lake pays will offset that cost.

There was some discussion of this. Gem Lake did have a clean up day, and no one came. An idea that was discussed was that the Gem Lake residents who are interested could be charged individually, which would ensure they show up, or if they don't the Township can still use their payment to offset the cost of the event. The Township residents end up paying \$5 per household for this event, so using that math it would be close to \$1,000 instead of \$500. There was consensus for the Town to request \$1,000. An idea that was brought up was \$500 for only 1 trip per resident or \$1,000 for any resident can make multiple trips. Supervisor McCune offered to have that idea as a backup plan, and to just request the \$1,000.

There was a consensus to authorize the Township to request \$1,000 from the City of Gem Lake, to be on par with what Township residents pay for the event.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Department Activity for February 2022. He has been serving on the **Met Council's I and I taskforce**. He gave some updates of the most recent meeting. There have been challenges to put together a plan of how to care for residents needs. There were some questions and discussion of time frames. A **water treatment pond** is being planned and went out for bid recently, with the goal to eliminate phosphorus in Wilson Lake. The cost share is 75% VLAWMO and 25% the Township, which looks like an estimate of \$20,000. The Town Board recently approved a **cleaning and televising quote** for this year. He gave some instances of what will be done in the area. Staff has been working on a **lead service line survey**, working to get that completed with addresses. The survey is due October 2024.

NEXT MEETING DATE / AGENDA ITEMS: The next meeting date will be April 13, 2023.

DeMars moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. DeLoach seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Wede
Recording Secretary