



**WHITE BEAR
TOWNSHIP**

1858
RAMSEY COUNTY
MINNESOTA

1281 HAMMOND ROAD
WHITE BEAR TOWNSHIP, MN 55110

651-747-2750
FAX 651-426-2258
Email: wbt@whitebeartownship.org

Board of Supervisors
ED M. PRUDHON, Chair
STEVEN A. RUZEK
SCOTT E. MCCUNE

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 13, 2023**

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

Present: Bernstein, DeLoach, Groschen; Clerk: Christopherson; Public Works Director: Reed;

Absent: Cremons, DeMars, Fredericks, all with notice.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): Bernstein moved to approve the agenda as amended, striking item 5 from the agenda and replacing it with Weston Woods Irrigation Update. DeMars seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2023: Bernstein made the motion to approval of the May 11, 2023 minutes. DeLoach seconded. Ayes all.

DISCUSSION AGENDA: The Town Clerk did update the Commission Agenda of the retirement of Deputy Clerk Patti Walstad and the new Deputy Clerk Reilly Ramirez.

Member Bernstein requested a detailed grade grid of year-over-year, month-over-month comparison of consent data. The Town Clerk updated the Commission of the Township Clean-Up Day, which went flawlessly. The Gem Lake collaboration went well. There was only one minor complaint of the whole event. He reported that the Township is 3 tons less than the year previously, so the Township is leveling out from folks cleaning out during the pandemic. There was some discussion of Clean-Up Day.

DeLoach moved to receive the discussion agenda as presented as follows: A) Receive Monthly Service Report; B) Receive Republic Call Log; C) Receive Solid Waste Abatement Report; D) Receive Watermain Leak Reports; E) Receive Water Efficiency Rebate Program Update. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

WESTON WOODS IRRIGATION -- UPDATE: The Town Clerk recapped this item for the Utility Commission. Town staff has met with the representatives of Weston Woods

**White Bear Township's
Mission:**

To provide White Bear Township residents, businesses and visitors with reliable, equitable, high quality municipal services while serving as open, inclusive and responsible stewards of the public trust.



**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 13, 2023**

multiple times. Weston Woods came up with some numbers that the Commission passed around regarding records of homeowners' usage and what their rates should be accordingly. Staff looked at the numbers and found them to be accurate. Staff had previously recommended an audit of their water usage, to which Weston Woods declined the offer. Weston Woods still presents these numbers though they are not an official evaluation of the irrigation system. Weston Woods representatives wanted to be present, but first the Utility Commission wants to do some research, and then the representatives could show up in August. The residents were notified of the price increase, but they would like the Utility Commission to refresh the tier that they used to fall into. Their billing did increase almost 56%, while their usage did decrease 14%; the goal is to discourage water use. The residents are paying indoor water separately, what is up for discussion tonight is simply for outside irrigation, which the Township is trying to decrease and limit by way of the most revised tier and price changes.

The request for tonight is simply for discussion and Town staff will give this info to the members who are absent for future discussion in August. There was some discussion of establishing an irrigation rate. There was discussion of usage and economics, the point is to get residents to back off water usage, or to pay a higher rate for over/excessive use, and in this case "overuse" or "excessive use" is determined by the pricing tiers established.

The Town Clerk reported that staff had traveled through one area of the Township inspecting for watering violators and found 16 violators in a small area, so throughout an estimate of violators throughout the Township could be up to 500 violators. There was discussion of having a conservation meeting held separately by the Utility Commission. The Town is in a critical position in regards to water issues and urges all residents to value water and water usage in kind. Staff will reach out to Weston Woods and let them know the Utility Commission would like to have a water conservation discussion based off of the Lake Level Lawsuit. There was discussion of the irrigation audit and the correspondence that staff will be sending to the representatives of Weston Woods.

FUTURE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT WITH NORTH OAKS: The Town Clerk updated the Utility Commission of this agenda item. The Public Works Director, Town Clerk, Legal staff, and the Town Board Chair are working on rewriting the JPA with North Oaks. In the last month, the Town has come up with the resolution that the Town would like to implement a water JPA similar to the Shoreview JPA with North Oaks. North Oaks would buy water from the Town at a set rate and a percentage markup, but once it leaves Town boundaries, the Town is not legally responsible for it. There was some discussion of the process of the Town treating the water, implementing a meter at the border, and then charging North Oaks based on consumption; however North Oaks charges or doesn't charge their residents is separate from the Township.

The Commission discussed other ways North Oaks could obtain water, like digging wells. As long as a well pumps less than 10,000 gallons per day, the entity does not need to get a permit through the DNR. Once it is reviewed and approved by the Town, the new JPA will be presented to the North Oaks City Council in September. There was a question as

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 13, 2023**

to whether North Oaks could backfeed into our system, and the answer was no. It was noted that no commingling of water should be added into the JPA.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The information for the Public Works Department Activity for June 2023 was in the packet for the Commission to review. There was a question about the **Bruce Vento Trail**. There was a question about the **Pavement Management Plan** and when the projects will start this year. There was some discussion of **sealcoating** as well. The Town Clerk brought up the \$7.5 million that the Township received from the state from the last legislative session. He gave the backstory of how the Town was able to achieve this funding by way of communicating with a couple of senators (Gustafson and Dibble). He brought up how the funding won't offset the assessments for individual projects, but instead benefit all Township residents by putting it into the levy for all road, water, and sewer projects.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: There were no added agenda items. There was a question of whether there were any complaints about the fireworks. It was reported that the Township has not received any complaints about the Township Clean-Up Day or the Fourth of July.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date will be August 10, 2023.

DeLoach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Wede
Recording Secretary