

Lanesboro Public Utilities
Council Chambers
June 15th, 2015, 1:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Theresa Coleman and Dennis Schuck

Absent: Jerry Evenson-Commission Chair

Staff Present: David Todd, Jim Peterson and Jared Wagner

Visitors: Tom Smith

Commissioner Schuck called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Coleman moved to adopt the agenda with the following additions: Harter's Trash Service rate increase, Ridgeview Booster Station Site, and Lighting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Schuck. Motion carried.

Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the minutes of the May 18th, 2014 meetings. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Schuck. Motion carried.

Persons with Interest before the Commission

A. Phil Dybing-Lanesboro Golf Club-REU Relief

Phil Dybing, Lanesboro Golf Club, had placed a request on the PUC agenda to cap the REUs for the golf course at \$550.00 per month (roughly 24 REUs) in order to allow the golf course to break even and avoid digging a well for irrigation purposes. Mr. Dybing was not present at this meeting but placed the request before the Commission at a prior meeting. The PUC, citing equity concerns, decided to take no action on Mr. Dybing's request for capping the REUs for the golf course and, instead, reiterated their original motion to re-evaluate the REUs for the golf course after one year, predicated on water use conservation measures implemented by the golf course.

B. Tom Smith-Sewer Issue-Auburn Ave.

Mr. Tom Smith was on hand to address the PUC regarding sewer issues on Auburn Avenue. Mr. Smith indicated that he had hired a plumber to run a camera down the sewer to ascertain what was causing the sewer to back-up in his residence. The results of the camera indicated that the obstruction was due to tree roots from an adjacent property near the "drop" section along the main. Mr. Smith indicated that his plumbing bill was \$324.00 and was seeking a partial or full reimbursement from the PUC. Likewise, his questions to the Utilities Commission were: Is the "drop" part of the City's sewer

main? Does the Utilities Department have authority to remove a tree interfering with the operation of the sewer? The Public Utility Commission advised Administrator Todd to check with the City's insurance carrier (LMCIT) to see if this is something the City is covered for.

Regular Business

A. Payables

Commissioner Coleman moved to pay expenses of the Lanesboro Public Utilities. Motion seconded by Commissioner Schuck. Motion carried.

B. Davy Engineering-Contractor's Pay Estimate Approval

Motion was made by Commissioner Coleman to approve the pay estimate for the contractor on the recommendation of Davy Engineering. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Schuck. Motion carried all in favor.

C. UMMA 2015 Summer Meeting

The Public Utilities Commission was advised of the event and the process for registering should they desire to attend.

D. AT&T Cell Tower Lease

Administrator Todd provided the PUC with information that he received a letter from AT&T advising that a specialist will be contacting the City regarding the terms of the lease. No other information was provided by AT&T and no action was taken by the Commission at this time.

E. Chamber Membership-Small Business Development Workshop

Commissioner Coleman indicated that the PUC should become a member of the Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce. She indicated that an amount had not been set yet by the Chamber and she will follow up once a dollar amount has been set. No action taken at this time.

F. Summer Internship-Art of Recycling Workshop

Commissioner Coleman stated that the art of recycling workshop is a program in which various art projects are implemented throughout town; such as painting trash bins, etc. Commissioner Coleman stated that there is not an amount set yet for this program. She will follow up with the PUC when an amount is set. No action taken by the Commission at this time.

G. 300 DuPont Street-Street Light Issue

The Commission was advised that a resident had complained about the ambient light coming from the street light at this location. Utility employees advised that they will replace the light with an LED directional light that should reduce the amount of ambient light coming from the fixture.

H. Street Light Issue-Coffee Street East

The Commission was advised that a resident complaint that the street lights along Coffee Street East had been intermittent and only partially lit during evening hours. Utility Employees advised that it was probably due to partial obstruction of the sensors. Utility employees will look into the issue.

I. Jamie Knutson-Tree Removal Issue

The Commission was advised that Mr. Knutson was dissatisfied about the removal of his "tree" that was obstructing the overhead utility lines. The issue at hand was that Mr. Knutson stated that neither he nor his mother was notified prior to the removal of the tree. The City Administrator indicated that under the current tree ordinance, the utility staff acted accordingly by removing the tree. The Administrator noted that the ethical course of action would be to try and locate and notify an owner prior to removing a privately owned tree but acknowledged that in some cases this was not feasible. The Administrator offered a remedy to this situation by allowing a \$250.00 reimbursement to the tree owner for the purchasing and planting of a replacement tree. Motion was made by Commissioner Coleman to offer a \$250.00 reimbursement (upon the City being provided with an invoice) for the purchase and planting of a replacement tree in accordance with the current City of Lanesboro Tree Ordinance/Policy and in cooperation with the City Public Utility Employees when planting the new tree. Administrator Todd is to send a letter outlining the ordinance and providing a list of approved trees according to the Lanesboro Tree Policy. The letter is to mention that the replacement tree may not be planted in the same location and must adhere to the guidelines of the Lanesboro Tree Ordinance/Policy when planting and the Utility Employees must be allowed to trim/spray the remaining trees that are interfering with the utility easement. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Schuck. Motion carried all in favor.

J. Miscellaneous Items

The Commission was advised that Harter's Trash Service has issued notice that there will be a rate increase effective immediately for recycling. Administrator Todd advised that the last rate increase the City instituted would cover the new rate from Harter's. No action taken.

The Commission asked the Utility employees to get bids from qualified electricians for replacement of the light for the walking path under the County Road 8 Bridge to present to the Park Board for a cost split with the PUC.

Administrator Todd advised that he spoke with Davy engineering regarding the Ridgeview Ave Booster Station and the potential use by the Ambulance Department for a new shed. Todd stated that the plans clearly showed the site to accommodate the booster station housing as well as a back-up generator. Davy indicated that the site would not be optimal for accommodating a new ambulance shed, but it could be feasible after significant fill was placed on the site as well as a few modifications to the existing plans for the ambulance building.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 20th, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting:

Motion was made by Commissioner Coleman to adjourn the regular meeting of the PUC. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Schuck. Motion carried all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

David Todd
City Administrator