

**Lanesboro Public Utilities  
Regular Meeting, City Council Chambers  
Tuesday, December 20, 2016 5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Tom Dybing, Theresa Coleman, and Char Brown

Absent: None

Staff Present: Jim Peterson, Jerod Wagner and Michele Peterson

Visitors: Michael Brown, Don Bell, Liz Bueheit, Autumn Johnson, Rick Lamon, and Jason Resseman

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Dybing called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**A. Agenda:** No additions or Corrections were made

**B. Consent Agenda:** Commission Member Brown moved to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Accounts Payable

Member Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.

**C. Staff Update:** Jim Peterson discussed issues with Chlorination and bio solids. Peterson had met with City Engineer due to the drying beds not drying properly, and to come up with possible options. As well to discuss safer option to the current chlorination process. Peterson noted that April – October it is required for a lower fecal chloroform, to attain this gas chlorine is added to the system. Then additionally sodium bisulfate is added. The plan would be to look at alternative systems. Alternative ideas for the drying beds will also need to be looked at, currently the bottoms are clay, and any upgrades could require the bottoms to be cemented. Peterson will wait for permit for Waste Water to come in from the state, prior to taking any actions.

Jerod Wagner noted he had attended a Municipal Solar Meeting, at which they discussed municipal owned solar gardens. The presenters stressed this is not a revenue generating system, however will produce green energy.

Member Dybing inquired regarding the power outage on Zenith Street this past Sunday. It was noted that it was a bad elbow coming out of the Peterson substation. There has been a significant increase in power outages in this area over the last year. Service from LPU goes as far as Jennifer Haug, as well the Water Treatment facility. All other properties are fed from Tri-County electric. Member Dybing inquired if there was a way to tie in all properties to Lanesboro. Wagner noted there are several things that would need to be considered for this. Jim Peterson also noted that there is a voltage issue between the two service areas, which would require all tubs to be replaced.

**Community Input:**

**A. Rick Lamon – Dry Run Distillery disconnection of services:** Mr. Lamon was present to ask the commission to waive the base charges for this location. He noted that all services had been turned off at this time, and there is not a current plan for development. He also stated that he had recently paid of the past due amount to bring the account current. His investment in this venture was done to help the community. Further discussion was had regarding current policy and rates on vacant buildings. The commission felt that they were not able to offer assistance, in an effort to ensure that all

customers are treated equitably. It was also noted that the local EDA and County EDA could be addressed if there is a future development at this location.

### **Regular Business**

- A. Commission Applicants:** Administrator Peterson noted that there were three applicants for the open seat: Tom Dybing, Michael Charlebois, and Don Bell. Given that one of the applicants is a current board member, Peterson felt it best that the commission turn over the applicants to the City Council for a decision. Member Brown felt that was a good decision. Peterson will present the applications to the City Council at the January 3, 2017 meeting.
- B. Continued Business:**
- a) 3 Phase Extension and Policies: The commission reviewed three possible policies for line extensions and line upgrades. Member Brown motioned to draft language to accommodate option #2, as well as providing credit for existing services. Member Dybing seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding the per foot cost, the example provided an exact amount, perhaps the cost could read based on actual cost for anything over 400 feet. It was also discussed that such a policy should cover all services not just 3-phase. Members Brown and Dybing rescinded their motions. Administrator Peterson will provide a sample policy next month based on the commissioner's discussions.
  - b) 2017 Budget: Member Dybing motioned to approve the budget for 2017 as presented. Member Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- C. Miscellaneous:** Visitor Liz Bucheit inquired if there was a way to notify residents when there is a problem, for example this past weekend when a water main was found to be cracked and several residents were without water for several hours. It was noted that there had been a miscommunication with the Sheriff's office, and that is being dealt with. Additionally the current voice mail system for the City Office will be evaluated to see if changes can be made. Finally it was noted that Administrator Peterson should be notified anytime there is an emergency so that she can disburse the information to stake holders.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Adjourn Regular Meeting:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brown to adjourn the regular meeting of the PUC at 6:16 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Coleman. Motion carried all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson  
City Administrator/Clerk