

Lanesboro Public Utilities
Regular Meeting, City Council Chambers
Tuesday, April 16th, 2019 5:30 p.m.

Present: Tom Dybing, Jeff Boland, and Don Bell
Absent: None
Staff Present: Jerod Wagner
Visitors: Tom Smith, Jim and Pam Watson, Mike Cecko, Phil and Heidi Dybing

Regular Meeting:

Commissioner Dybing called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

- A. Agenda:** Administrator Peterson requested Mike Cecko be added to Community Input, Items 3 and 4 be removed from Continued Business, and Member Capacity Confirmation and Technician Job Description be added to Miscellaneous. Member Bell motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Member Boland seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- B. Consent Agenda:** Member Dybing motioned to approve the Consent agenda as submitted. Member Boland seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
 - Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 19th, 2019
 - Accounts Payable
- C. Council Liaison Update:** Member Smith reported the Council approved the Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Policy as well as the Trace Wire Specification Policy as recommended by the LPU commission. The Council also approved an RFP for updating the Comprehensive Plan. The Council also heard comments in regards to the location of the proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility. Smith also noted there will be a meeting at 5:30 on April 30th to review the bids for the Dam project, and at 6:30 there will be a Public Hearing for the Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- D. Staff Update:** Jerod Wagner reported that a list of remaining items has been prepared for the switchgear upgrade, and they are working on determining dates for the work to be completed. Wagner recently attended a meeting for the Solar Field project, it is estimated that the system will be connected in mid-May. Additionally, Wagner met with a potential contractor for repairs to the Water Treatment Facility.

Community Input:

- A. Pam and Jim Watson:** The Watson's provided a handout illustrating their average water usage. They requested that the meter be tested, and replace if necessary. The Watson's also inquired if a portion of the water bill could be forgiven. No further action was taken at this time.
- B. Phil Dybing:** Mr. Dybing presented the idea that a solar garden be placed on the south roof of the community center building. He noted the need for support from the City before too much time was invested in researching the idea. The general idea would be to have residents invest and then based on the energy generated be paid back on a monthly basis. Jerod Wagner noted a concern for what happens if a person moves out of town, how is their share in the project reconciled. Wagner also noted that although it would hedge against a resident's utility bill it would not be a money maker. Mr. Dybing then shared a document he produced with information in relation to the current solar field being built on the South of town. Discussion was had that the City should provide information to the community on it. It was also noted that

the only involvement that the City has is the agreement to purchase the electricity. As well this venture was made possible by Lanesboro Public Utilities being a member of Upper Midwest Municipal Energy Group (UMMEG). Mr. Dying then proposed that the commission consider offering incentives to builders as applicable.

- C. **Mike Cecko:** The water line to his house froze this spring and stayed frozen for over a month. Utilities were able to connect him to an alternate supply; however, he would like to see what could be done to repair the water lines, in hopes this would not happen in the future. Several options were discussed on how the situation could be handled. Jerod Wagner will research the viable options and report back next month.

Regular Business

- A. **Harold K. Scholz Company, pay request 1:** Member Boland motioned to approve pay request 1. Member Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- B. **MN Energy Resources – AMI Equipment:** Administrator Peterson noted that MN Energy would like to place equipment on an existing utility pole to enable them to read meters remotely. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17th, to determine an agreeable location. Peterson will also prepare a pole agreement, and bring information back to next months meeting for the commissions review. Member Bell requested that a meter also be installed to be able to bill for electricity used.
- C. **Continued Business:**
 - 1. **Power Plant:** Two estimates are scheduled to be available at the May 15th LPU meeting.
 - 2. **PTO Trash Pump:** No new information was available.
- D. **Miscellaneous:**
 - 1. **Public Hearing, April 30th 2019 at 6:30 p.m.:** A reminder of the upcoming hearing.
 - 2. **Member Capacity Confirmation:** Jerod Wagner presented the agreement for McGregor Municipal Utility to purchase the excess capacity from Lanesboro Public Utilities. Member Boland motioned to approve the agreement, with a lump sum payment. Member Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
 - 3. **Technician Job Description:** Member Boland motioned to approve the Technician Job Description as amended. Member Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
 - 4. **Meter Testing – Watson:** Jerod Wagner will verify that numbers correlate from MiEnergy and the Lanesboro City Office. Wagner will also remove the existing meter and test, then replace if necessary.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 15th, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting: Motion was made by Commissioner Bell to adjourn the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Commission at 6:43 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Boland. Motion carried all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Administrator/Clerk