

**Lanesboro Public Utilities
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 21st, 2020 10:00 a.m.
Lanesboro Community Center Gymnasium and
Zoom with video and audio connections**

Present: Jon Pieper, Elliot Riggott and Don Bell
Absent: None
Staff Present: Jerod Wagner
Visitors: Bonita Underbakke and Phil Dybing

Regular Meeting:

Commissioner Pieper called the regular meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

- A. **Agenda:** Member Bell motioned to approve the agenda as submitted with the additions of: MN DNR and Wastewater Testing. Member Riggott seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- B. **Consent Agenda:** Member Bell motioned to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Member Riggott seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
 - Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 16th, 2020
 - Accounts Payable
- C. **Council Liaison Update:** No update was available. Administrator Peterson shared that a Hearing was being held to determine if Hillside Avenue should be vacated, concerns were shared regarding the utilities in the right of way.
- D. **Staff Update:** Utilities Supervisor Jerod Wagner reported the following:
 - Several recent trainings for Water, Sewer, and Land Application
 - There are three street lights left to switch over, the diffuser will be left on one with the diffuser removed on another in hopes of determining which aesthetic is better.
 - Complaints are still being received regarding a sewer gas smell on properties along Auburn Avenue.
 - Sewer lines from Hwy 250 along Coffee Street will be videoed tomorrow.
 - A trial run of shutting down the South Water Tower for maintenance is happening today.
 - o Member Pieper noted that water pressure is very high. Supervisor Wagner noted that we are currently within the guidelines, however he will look into the pressure to see if it is in need of adjustment.
 - o Member Piper shared that a business owner had concerns that a brown out had occurred, and consequently several light fixtures were damaged. It was noted that this is a single-phase service and therefore a brown out at this location was not likely.
 - o Member Bell inquired about the drip valve replacement project. Supervisor Wagner noted that due to the pandemic this project is on hold. Member Riggott noted he would volunteer to help with inspections when appropriate. A suggestion was made to reach out to the City of Stewartville, as they have done a project similar in scope.

- E. **Dam Project Update:** Project is still on schedule, and work has begun on the power canal and gate structure. Supervisor Wagner noted that additional work on the SCADA system will also need to be done, which is not part of the Dam Project, although there are funds budgeted for, for this portion of the project. Concerns were raised about individuals accessing the water above the Dam.

Regular Business

- A. **Dybing Building Request:** Phil Dybing could like to tear down the existing garage and build a larger one in a similar footprint. There are currently distribution lines that run over top of the garage, causing concern. Additionally, the gas line for the Public Utilities generator comes across Mr. Dybing's property. Mr. Dybing provided suggestions for how the utilities could be moved. Member Bell motioned to have Supervisor Wagner attain a quote for moving the electrical lines as well as contact MN Energy to also attain a quote and placement policy guidelines. Member Riggott seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- B. **Continued Business:**
 - 1. **Electric Rate Study:** Work on the rate study continues. Supervisor Wagner shared concern for the overall electric system with regards to capacity requirements and renewable resources. This discussion will be continued for future consideration.
- C. **Miscellaneous:**
 - 1. **MN DNR:** Confirmation was received noting that the DNR will not be requiring a water appropriation permit or fees for the Bass (Mill) Pond.
 - 2. **Wastewater Testing:** Member Bell shared the research that his wife, Anna Loney, had been doing regarding testing of Wastewater as an indicator of COVID in the community. Discussion was had that given the number of visitors in town that would not be an accurate portrayal of what was happening in the community. Members did feel that testing done during the week, could potentially be a more accurate indicator. Discussion will be continued as more information becomes available.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 18th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting: Motion was made by Commissioner Riggott to adjourn the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Commission at 11:30 a.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Administrator/Clerk