

Lanesboro Public Utilities
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:00 a.m.
Zoom with video and audio connections

Present: Jon Pieper, Elliot Riggott, and Don Bell
Absent: None
Staff Present: Jerod Wagner and Darla Taylor
Visitors: Mitchell Walbridge and Steve Sobieniak

Regular Meeting:

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

- A. **Agenda:** Member Pieper motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Member Bell seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll call with all in favor. Motion carried.
- B. **Consent Agenda:** Member Pieper motioned to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Member Bell seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll call with all in favor. Motion carried.
 - Minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 1, 2020
- C. **Staff Update:** Utilities Supervisor Jerod Wagner noted the following:
 - The Lanesboro School Interconnection Application has been submitted and is currently being reviewed by the engineers.
 - The oil analysis for the Fairbanks engine is complete and the results are good.
 - Farabee Mechanical will be providing an estimate for automating the engine.
 - Winter plans include measuring the media at the Water Treatment Facility, as well as interior painting at the facility.

Regular Business

- A. **2021 2022 Rebate Form:** Members reviewed the presented form, considerations were discussed for a rebate for recycling as well. Member Pieper motioned to table the discussion until the January meeting. Member Bell seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.
- B. **Electric Rates:** The basis for the rate structure was discussed, noting that the industry as a whole is migrating towards this type of structure. It was noted that current MiEnergy rates are: \$1.42/per day base charge, \$.11 for peak usage, and \$.074 for off peak usage. Discussion continued about the ability to meter peak and off peak usage, current meters are not capable of this. Supervisor Wagner will look into the potential cost to replace meters and software to read meters. Members also discussed generation capabilities as well as battery storage. Member Pieper motioned to table the discussion until the completed rate study can be reviewed. Member Bell seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.
- C. **Capital Projects:** Administrator Peterson reviewed the updated Capital Projects worksheet. Projects are now grouped within departments, so that as projects are completed funds can be transferred to other projects within the department. Secondary wire replacement, and valve

replacement will be started in 2021 as time allows. Supervisor Wagner discussed the idea of looking at the big picture as we look at community projects. Keeping in mind the condition of the pavement and the utilities. Wagner noted the importance of not focusing on a snapshot, rather look at the big picture.

D. Miscellaneous:

- a. **Hydro:** Member inquired about the operation of the Hydro. Supervisor Wagner noted that due to river levels being low, the hydro has not been able to be run since the dam renovation has been complete.
- b. **Power Plant Wall:** A contractor has not been identified yet to complete the repairs.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting: Motion was made by Commissioner Bell to adjourn the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Commission at 10:56 a.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Riggott. Motion carried all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Administrator/Clerk