

**Lanesboro Public Utilities
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 17, 2021 10:00 a.m.
Lanesboro Community Center Meeting Room and Zoom**

Present: Jon Pieper and Don Bell

Absent: Elliott Riggott

Staff Present: Jerod Wagner and Darla Taylor

Visitors: Council Member [Mindy Albrecht-Benson](#), [Jake Pichelmann](#), Deb Fahey, Tom Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Johnson, and Brian Malm

Regular Meeting:

Commissioner Pieper called the regular meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

- A. Agenda:** Member Bell motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Member Pieper seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- B. Consent Agenda:** Member Bell motioned to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Member Pieper seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting, July 20, 2021
 - Accounts Payable
- C. Wastewater Treatment Facility Update:** [Jake Pichelmann](#) of Bolton & Menk noted that work continues on the west side of the property along with the application of coatings and pressure testing of the lines. Currently the project is estimated to be 25% complete.
- D. Staff Update:** Supervisor Jerod Wagner reported the following:
- Updates to the Sewer collection have allowed for a more efficient connection to the Sales Barn. The existing system under the building will be abandoned. It was also noted that the outflow for the plant will remain in the same location, as permits have been issued by the DNR to cross the Bike Trail.
 - Our staff are currently working with Bolton & Menk to work on upgrading the mapping for the electrical system. Work will be completed over the next month.
 - We are currently waiting for a per meter estimate from MiEnergy for upgrading Electric meters.
 - The initial truck quoted from the dealership will be built for Lanesboro Public Utilities, per Ford.
 - The Highway 250 Campground is considering a large electric upgrade, in order to determine the feasibility of this we will be working with Star Energy. The cost for this engineering will be past on to the property owner.
 - Wholesale rates are still trending high, with this we may be required to pay in at the end of this year. We have received a credit for the last two years. Moving forward we may consider putting any rebates aside to cover such shortfalls.
 - Finally, Wagner would like to consider how the proposed new development will be served, as well as the existing services that are currently on MiEnergy's infrastructure.

- E. **City Council Update:** City Council will be reviewing the proposed electric rate structure at the September meeting.

Regular Business

- A. **Johnson - Water Adjustment Request:** Jennifer Johnson and Tom Fitzpatrick requested an adjustment of \$614.99 to their utility account. The meter reading showed excessive water usage during the month of May. The incident has been investigated, however the cause has not been identified. Member Pieper motioned to forgive \$614.99 for the water usage. Member Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

B. **Continued Business:**

- a. **Power Plant Repair Estimate:** Member Pieper motioned to approve the bid as submitted with the stipulation that work be completed per the Engineer's specifications. Member Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- b. **Solar Cost Explanation:** No additional questions were brought forward, members noted appreciation to Gary Price for the detailed explanation.
- c. **2021 2022 Rebate Form:** Discussion will be continued.
- d. **Capital Projects:** There may be some possible electrical involved with the proposed road projects for next year, however the engineering for this portion of the project is not yet completed. Members also noted an interest in learning more about battery storage. The commission requested that Jerod Wagner look into the following:
 - Pricing for replacing the relays as a 2021 project
 - Attain an updated estimate for a 6" sludge pump
 - Identify a contractor and receive quotes for valve replacement
 - Attain an updated quote for Automating the Generator in 2022

C. **Miscellaneous:**

- a. Member Pieper noted a desire to remove the bond payments for the Auburn/Zenith road project from the LPU budget.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting: Motion was made by Commissioner Pieper to adjourn the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Commission at 11:49 a.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Administrator/Clerk