

**Lanesboro Public Utilities  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, July 19, 2022 10:00 a.m.  
Lanesboro Community Center Meeting Room and Zoom**

**Present:** Jon Pieper and Brian Roelofs

**Absent:** Elliot Riggott

**Staff/Council Present:** Deputy Clerk Darla Taylor, Supervisor Jerod Wagner and Council Member Mindy Albrecht-Benson

**Visitors:** Bonita Underbakke, Luther Olson, and Phil Dybing

**Regular Meeting:**

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

**A. Public Comments:**

- Luther Olson: Shared that he was recently made aware of the Public Utilities policy that the property owner is responsible from the main to the house. While Public Utilities is responsible for the main. Olson also shared concern for private contractors working in the right of way, noting that he felt it was easier for the City to attain necessary permits. Olson recommended that a notice of the responsibilities of property owners be posted and shared with the public.

**B. Agenda:** Member Pieper motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of Certification of Utility Charges. Member Roelofs seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**C. Consent Agenda:** Member Pieper motioned to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Member Roelofs seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 21, 2022
- Accounts Payable

**D. Wastewater Treatment Facility Update:** Supervisor Wagner noted we are still waiting on a permit from the DNR for crossing the trail. As well there is still some equipment that has not arrived. The exterior fencing construction has begun. Concern for the official start up date and the need to winterize is being closely monitored.

**E. Staff Update:** Supervisor Wagner noted the following:

- Electrical work is underway for the Street and Utility Project along Rochelle. Work has included pole removal as well as removal of some wire, making the area cleaner looking.
- Energy pricing is extremely high currently. At his point UMMEG is estimating by year end we would be \$79,000 over projected costs. Discussion was then had regarding the current usage rates versus actual costs, Wagner and Peterson noted they are watching and will provide updates to the Commission as needed.
- Additional electrical work is needed, although the pole in question is extremely difficult to get to. The transformer on the pole currently serves Krage Insurance, Parkway

Market, and Unwired. The transformer will be switched out to one that can also carry the load for the Cottage House.

- The sewer grate on Hwy 250 near the Wastewater Treatment Facility on the north side has been turned. The one on the south side will be turned once the silt fence has been removed.

**F. City Council Update:** Administrator Peterson shared that the City Council had met in a special meeting to approve the final settlement agreement for litigation between the City and Clean Water and Air Legacy LLC. Clean Water and Air Legacy LLC (CWAL) filed suit in federal court claiming that the City had violated the permit with the MPCA for effluents violations. Although these overages did happen, we did work with the MPCA for corrective actions. A copy of the settlement agreement is available for review.

### **Regular Business**

- A. Ken Soiney - Electric Service Request:** Supervisor Wagner noted that meters should not be placed on poles, rather they should be placed on structures. This way if we need to replace a pole, we would not need to impact the meter at all. No action was taken regarding payment of the hook up fee.
- B. Repairs to Mains and Service Lines:** Current ordinances for water and sewer note the City is responsible for the main, while the property owner is responsible for the service line from the main to the house. Member Pieper motioned to provide a notice to the public regarding the current policies. Member Roelofs seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- C. CRC Membership Agreement:** Members noted a concern for the overall expense of utilizing CRC. For this reason it was requested to look into the possibility of another cell phone, and / or utilizing call forwarding. Discussion will be continued.
- D. Housing Incentives - Phil Dybing:** Phil Dybing was present representing the Economic Development Authority. The EDA is looking to put together a housing incentive program, to entice people to move to Lanesboro. Dybing shared examples from Harmony and Preston for reference. The goal is to come up with a program that would make Lanesboro competitive with surrounding communities. Dybing suggested that the utility hook up fees be waived as part of the incentive program. Members discussed the cost to install service and infrastructure expenses. Member Pieper motioned to table the discussion. Member Roeloffs seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- E. Continued Business:**
- a. Total cost for operating diesel generator:** Discussion to be continued.
  - b. Reduce electric usage in public facilities:** Suggestions included furnace and a/c replacement at the light plant. Discussion to be continued.
  - c. Capital Projects:**
    - i. Carbon Neutrality:** No updates were available.
    - ii. Drip Lines Investigations:** No updates were available.
    - iii. Storm Sewer Investigations:** No new updates were available.
    - iv. Land Acquisition:** No additional updates were available.
  - d. Miscellaneous:**

- i. **Certification of Utility Charges:** Administrator Peterson noted that notice had been sent to a property owner that utility charges will be certified to their account unless payment is made in full. The property owner may request a hearing. If no hearing is requested the City Council will consider a resolution to certify the charges in September.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 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 11:12 a.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Roelofs. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson  
City Administrator/Clerk