

**Lanesboro Public Utilities
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 16, 2022 10:00 a.m.
Lanesboro Community Center Meeting Room and Zoom**

Present: Jon Pieper and Elliot Riggott

Absent: Brian Roelofs

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

Visitors: Bonita Underbakke

Regular Meeting:

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

- A. Public Comments:** No comments were shared
- B. Agenda:** Member Riggott motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Member Pieper seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- C. Consent Agenda:** Member Riggott 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 19, 2022
 - Accounts Payable
- D. Wastewater Treatment Facility Update:** Progress continues with the main control panel being installed. At this time the plant is scheduled to be online in October of 2022.
- E. Street & Utility Improvement Project Update:** Supervisor Wagner noted that work in the Pleasant/Sheridan alley will begin next week, supports for the utility poles will be provided to ensure stability during the project. A large shut down of water service will also happen next week, impacting approximately one half of the town.
- F. Staff Update:** Supervisor Wagner shared that the average cost for a 25 kVa Transformer is \$1,300, which normally can support 3-4 houses. The average cost for a 37 kVa is \$1,500, while a 50 kVa is \$1,800. A break in the main along Hwy 16, has noted a leaky valve once repairs were completed. In order to repair the valve, a large water shut off will need to happen due to an insufficient number of valves. Members questioned the power outages over the first weekend in August. Wagner noted the outage was due to bad insulators along the MiEnergy distribution line. There were nine areas of concern found and repaired by MiEnergy. Due to the excessive energy use with the town festival staff needed to change how the circuits were brought online. MMUA is estimating a purchase cost deficit of \$111,000 for Lanesboro currently, this amount does not include the funds being put aside to offset any deficit.
- G. City Council Update:** No updates were noted.

Regular Business

- A. Bearson:** A request to discuss a water connection was granted to be added to the agenda. The property owners would like to connect water service for a new home to an existing service line, in order to avoid digging into Hwy 16. The existing home is planned to be removed, and therefore there would be only one home attached to the service line. Supervisor Wagner shared concern for future developments, noting that our ordinances prohibit more than one residence per service line. The property owner will investigate the cost for making the connection into the Highway. Members discussed the possibility of allowing the connection, with the understanding that ultimately there should be just one residence per service line.
- B. Light Poles and Fuel Tank Painting:** Supervisor Wagner noted a concern had been received for the appearance of the light poles along the trail near the dam which are owned by the City. Additionally Wagner noted that the fuel tank which is also silver in color needs to be painted. Wagner noted that the cleaning and painting of both the light poles and the fuel tanks should be placed on the capital outlay chart for future planning as time allows.
- C. Continued Business:**
- a. After Hours Customer Service:** Supervisor Wagner noted that currently the Verizon towers do not have power once power has been disrupted in town until the generator has been started. For this reason staff members did not receive messages until days later when an outage occurred. Members noted that we should consider including a mandate for installation of a generator for power back-up for future Verizon contracts. Member Pieper motioned to move forward with a quote from Acentek for the creation of a separate email account, which would have voice mails go directly to email, and therefore staff members could receive alerts to outages through email. Member Riggott seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
 - b. Housing Incentives:** Member Pieper motioned to table the discussion. Member Riggott seconded the motion. Discussion was had about the cost of transformers, and current policy regarding installation charges. Members will continue to consider changes to the fee schedule. Motion carried with all in favor.
 - c. Total cost for operating diesel generator:** Wagner reported that strictly based on fuel cost for operating the generator it costs 5.4 Cents per kilowatt to generate, this is based on \$2.90 per gallon of fuel.
 - d. Reduce electric usage in public facilities:** Administrator Peterson suggested a new mini split for the Public Works office installation. No action was taken, discussion will be continued.
 - e. 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:** Supervisor Wagner suggested that a realtor could be utilized in order to find land to purchase for biosolids application. Wagner noted that the cost would be more attainable if we are responsive versus reactive. Our new facility will be able to store one years worth of sludge, at this time we have not found other facilities interested in taking the product. Specifications for land application as well as the requirements for application should be considered as

well. Members suggested that haulers could be contacted for potential insights for application. It was noted that the ideal location would be off of Hwy 250 north of town. This would provide a shorter distance for hauling purposes.

- f. **Miscellaneous:** Member Pieper noted that he had reached out to Representative Greg Davids regarding funding for a microgrid project. The thought is to search out funding to create a microgrid in Lanesboro as a test pilot program.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 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 10:58 a.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Riggott. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Administrator/Clerk