

W&L 2-14-17

NEWBERRY WATER & LIGHT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 14, 2017

Present: Chairman Charles Medelis, Sharon Brown, Lisa DenBoer, Jim Johnson, Larry Vincent.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Manager James-Meshloh, Superintendent Vallad, Village President DeWitt, Clerk Schummer.

Guests: Harold Dishaw.

Call to Order: Chairman Medelis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Village of Newberry Office followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Request for Additional Agenda Items: None.

Minutes: Motion by Brown, support by DenBoer, CARRIED, to approve the January 10, 2017 regular meeting minutes as written. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.

Public Comment: Harold Dishaw asked what REU stands for as referenced in the January minutes. Discussion followed.

Financial Reports:

A.) Cash Balance Report – December 31, 2016: Report reviewed by Board.

B.) Regular Payables – January 2017 - Motion by DenBoer, support by Brown, CARRIED, to approve payment of the Electric Fund in the amount of \$187,653.78. Discussion followed regarding Michigan Municipal Electric Association dues, the Village Manager will look into the billing of all association fees and report back to the Board. Ayes: All. Motion by Vincent, support by Brown, CARRIED, to approve payment of the Water Fund in the amount of \$3,389.42. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.

Reports:

- A. Superintendent report: Vallad gave a verbal report as well as written report.
- No peak shaving for month of January – did exercise both Fairbanks and Worthington. Had an issue with the Worthington.
 - Met with Glenn Keates regarding rates.
 - Repaired two hydrants hit by residents.
 - Crew went to CPR training.
 - Maintaining snow removal equipment.
 - Christmas décor is down.
 - There are 3 W&L poles north of the 69 line (switching station), will have ATC pay for use of these poles in any future agreements.
 - Discussed W&L charts provided by Vallad.
- B. Village of Newberry – Manager’s Updates:
- Water & Light cash transfer on February 1, 2017. A memo regarding transfer with explanation was presented to the Board.
 - Bond Schedules for 2017 was presented to the Board. Discussion followed.
 - Pole Rental Agreement update: The Village Manager and Superintendent have been going over the current agreements and will be making some edits, revisions and renegotiating, they will report further on this at a later date.
 - Staffing – job titles, retirements, evaluation of department staffing needs and reorganization of departments was discussed. Under the abilities of the Village Manager, she can change job titles, descriptions, promotions, etc., she will be looking to change some of these before the union contract comes-up June 30, 2017.

W&L 2-14-17

Old Business:

- A.) Rate Studies Update: Met with Glen Keates, reviewed electric rates and have a meeting set with John Holland on Feb. 24th. Manager James-Meshloh requested that the rate raise be postponed for a few weeks while the budget is made more transparent so that residents can better understand why the rates need to be raised. She would like to raise the water rate first as it will have to be a dramatic increase to be followed by the electric. The Manager wants to be sure the public will get the information as to why and how the rates will be raised in a way that is transparent and understandable.
- B.) Insurance Claim: Manager is having a phone appointment with claims adjuster on 2/16/17 regarding home fire on W. Victory Way.

New Business:

- A. Water service and meter pit for school garden: Applying for a grant from the tribe to put metered water service to the school garden. Discussion followed.
- B. Copy machine for Water & Light office: Discussion for the need of and the advantages of leasing or purchasing a copy machine for the W&L. Because this was budgeted for, the Board agreed to allow the Superintendent and Village Manager to use their discretion in the matter.
- C. Budget Revision – USDA requirement for water project: A memo, which explained the revision, was reviewed and discussed by the Board. Moved by DenBoer, support by Johnson, CARRIED, to recommend to Village Council to adopt the proposed budget amendments, as necessary, as required for our USDA Bond Report. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.
- D. Chairman Medelis asked if anything had been decided regarding billing rates and metering of apartments. Discussion followed.
- E. Medelis asked about the electric bill for the Village offices. Discussion followed and it was decided moving forward it will be charged monthly.

Public Comment: Harold Dishaw stated he would like to see a light put in for the new Village offices parking lot.

Adjournment: Motion by Johnson, support by Brown, CARRIED, to adjourn meeting at 6:53 p.m. Ayes: All.

These minutes are unapproved until voted on at the next meeting.

Terese Schummer, Clerk

Charles Medelis, Chairperson