

NEWBERRY WATER & LIGHT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2017

Present: Chairman Medelis, Sharon Brown, Jim Johnson, Lawrence Vincent.

Absent: Lisa Den Boer

Also Present: Superintendent Buck Vallad, Village Manager James-Mesloh, Clerk Schummer.

Call to Order: Chairman Medelis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Village of Newberry Offices followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Medelis stated he would like to thank the crew for everything they do. Next Tuesday is Linemen Appreciation Day and Medelis commended Matt, Joe, Dave and Jarrett for the great job they do

Request for Additional Agenda Items: None

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Brown, support by Johnson, CARRIED, to approve the agenda. Ayes: All. Absent: Den Boer.

Minutes: Moved by Brown, support by Johnson, CARRIED, to approve the March 14, 2017, regular meeting minutes with the following addition. Under Reports B, line 4, now includes the name of the employee who resigned, Leslie Cook. Ayes: All. Absent: Den Boer.

Financial Reports:

A.) Cash Balance Report – February 28, 2017: Reviewed.

B.) Motion by Brown, support by Vincent, CARRIED, to approve payment of the Electric Fund bill in the amount of \$180,844.35. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Absent: Den Boer. Motion by Vincent, support by Brown, CARRIED, to approve payment of the Water Fund bill in the amount of \$4,153.52. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Absent: Den Boer.

Staff Reports:

A.) **Water & Light - Superintendent update:** Superintendent Vallad gave a written as well as a verbal report. Written report attached to these minutes. Discussions were held regarding the following: The lights placed on Ave. B and M123, the downtown street lights, the 69 line switch, and the Worthington.

B.) **Village of Newberry – Manager’s update:** The Village was approved for a new domain name, NewberryMI.gov, so we will be switching to new email addresses. Installing a new firewall for network and server. The reason being, we take payments online and this firewall is government grade. Obtained a government grade security cloud license for 3-years, the cost will be split among all the accounts. With Leslie Cook leaving, there have been some staff changes in the offices. James-Mesloh met with MERS representative last week to get an update, and found out we are collectively 64% funded. They will be working on a plan to try to get a better rate. The Manager has been requesting quotes from phone companies to upgrade the Village system. CPA firm, Plante Moran, is coming here to completely redo the budget, at no cost to the Village, it will be covered through our Project Rising Tide status by MEDC. Once the budget is done we will have a better understanding as to what the rates will need to be adjusted to. If we don’t have some good answers by next month, from Plante Moran regarding the budget, we will probably initiate a rate adjustment in the interim. We are currently doing an REU survey (Resident Equivalent Units). Discussion followed.

Old Business:

A.) **Budget Review:** None

New Business:

A.) **Staff Updates:** Discussed earlier in the meeting.

B.) **Summer Water Program:** Being implemented.

C.) **CLM Conservation District – Spring Tree Sale** will be held on 4/29 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Water & Light parking lot.

D.) **Request New Bank Account – Dedicated Christmas Decorations:** Moved by Brown, support by Johnson, CARRIED, to allow the Village Manager to oversee the opening of the following money market account: Newberry Water & Light; Xmas Décor Donations. This account shall be held at 1st National Bank. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Absent: Lisa Den Boer.

E.) **School garden:** The meter-pit and copper pipe are in. Brown stated that the TAS Superintendent asked that the Village bill the school for the time and material.

Public Comment: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Johnson, support by Vincent, CARRIED, to adjourn meeting at 6:34 p.m. Ayes: All. Absent: Den Boer.

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