

NEWBERRY WATER & LIGHT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2017

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

Absent: Lisa Den Boer.

Also Present: Assistant Village Manager - Vallad, and Village Manager James-Mesloh, W&L Superintendent – Perry, Clerk – Schummer, Mary Jordan, Allison Watkins, Donald Ratliff, John Bergman, Mike Schnorr, Diane Arneith, Lynn Salter, Bob Hokkanen, Shirley Hokkanen, Shirley Larkin, Charlie Mesloh, Paula Morgan, Daryl Boerigter, William D. Green, Jack A. Olson, Joy Newton, Lorraine for Raymond Staly, Joseph W. Arndt, Rose Sheppard, Paul Lahti, Darlene Kisro, Angela D. Dulaney, Dwayne A. Dulaney.

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.

Request for Additional Agenda Items: None.

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

Minutes: Moved by Brown, support by Vincent, **CARRIED**, to approve the July 11, 2017, regular meeting minutes. Ayes: All. Absent: Den Boer.

Water and Light Chairperson Announcements: None.

Financial Reports:

1. Water & Light Monthly Bills – July 2017. Motion by Vincent, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of the July 2017, Electric Fund bill in the amount of \$8,785.24, the Water Supply System Receiving Fund for \$19.75 and the Water Fund in the amount of \$970.15 for a total of \$9,775.14. Ayes: All. Absent: Den Boer. Moved by Brown, support by Vincent, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of the additional invoices that included telephone, heat, professional contracts and purchase power, in the amount of \$81,966.65. Ayes: All. Absent: Den Boer.
2. Christmas light fund: Currently has \$4,796.82.
3. Water & Light – Cash balance for July 2017 was reviewed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

- Rose Sheppard, 10234 St. Hwy. M-123 – Questioned why the office is closed to pay bills and whether or not a customer can get a receipt.
- William David Green, 202 E. Harrie, - Wondering when the minutes would be posted from the large user and commercial meeting held August 14, 2017. It was not an informational meeting, because no quorum was present, minutes were not taken.
- Shirley Larkin, 512 E. Ave B – Stated she opposed that flat rate fee and wanted to know if she will have to pay when she is gone for the winter.
- Jack Olson, 407 E. Truman Blvd. – Felt that the rate has tripled, 300% in the past 3-4 years, and so the information in the paper and letter was misleading. Also the information doesn't address preventing the Council from borrowing money from other sources to make payments. There is no allowance for customers to reduce use to lower their bill.
- Mike Schnorr, 306 E. Truman Blvd. – Asked how the Council came up with the rate number. He also held up a filter, which was very discolored from the water, doesn't feel he can drink the water.
- Lynn Salter, 315 W. Helen – Feels the rate is very inequitable, why should single users pay for big families. People cannot pay this increase on a set income. Should charge users what they use.
- John Bergman, 411 E. Ave. A – His concern was the vacant homes and seasonal homes will they have to pay full flat rate. Said he checked with other cities and they are not on a fixed rate, they are per use.

- Paul Lahti, 401 E. John – Stated that there used to be a \$20 charge on everybody's water bill to cover the upgrade and was wondering where all that money went. He stated that his aunt couldn't afford to pay the increase as she is allotted \$60 a month and is in the nursing home.
- Don Ratliff, 309 E. Truman – Worked on the system in 2004 wondered where the money went for that. Stated there needed to be an independent audit to see where the money is going.
- Dwayne Dulaney, 411 E. Victory – Stated he believes that it is much more than a 55% increase.
- Joy Newton, 410 E. Truman – Feels we need to let God in, and let him run the show.
- Joe Arndt, 409 W. Ave. C – Doesn't understand why he has to pay when he is gone for the winter.
- Darlene Kisro, 109 E. Harrie – Her water rates will triple – suggested a separate charge on the bill to help pay off the bond.
- Luanne – 216 W. Ave. B – Nobody will be conservative so will the city have to pay for more filters and upkeep of the pipes, is it really more cost efficient for the city.

Petitions and Communications:

1. Terry Fuwell – phone call requesting he pay for water only when he is here – he is a snowmobiler.
2. Rosemary Sheppard – note in drop box requesting receipt.

Introduction and adoption of ordinances and resolutions:

1. Changing Signatories for Banking Accounts. Moved by Vincent, support by Brown, CARRIED, to authorize John DeWitt, Charles Medelis, Terese Schummer, Jennifer James-Mesloh, Mary Jordan, and Allison Watkins to sign signature cards for Village bank accounts. All checks are required to have (2) signatures. Ayes: All. Absent: Den Boer.

Staff Reports:

- A.) Village Manager: She has been working on getting information out to the public on the rate changes and bill paying options. Had a commercial and large users water and sewer rates informational meeting on August 14th. She was happy with the turnout and felt it was a positive and supportive meeting. Working on a Newberry Action Plan Prioritization survey.
- B.) Assistant Village Manager: Vallad spent a lot of time on the rate study this past month. He also informed the Board that the new EA is .028944, the old one was .028976 so it has decreased. The PA95 was .96 will go to .93 this year.
- C.) Superintendent of Water and Light: Perry gave a verbal as well as written report, which is attached. There were a few outages and power surges that the crew took care of. Did water samples for lead and copper. Perry stated that he would like to have an operator go to the Fairbanks Morse opposed piston engine overhaul training.

Reports of Committees:

1. Policy Committee
 - a. Schedule meeting: Scheduled for August 23rd at 10:00 a.m.
 - b. Policy Revision: Board was given a copy of the Water and Light Board Policies. The first draft of edits was also presented at the same time, to be reviewed before the meeting on August 23rd.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) Restoration of Excavated Areas for Water Project – Mike Pond
 - a. AECOM – Water Distribution System
 - b. PA #16 - \$135,178.47. By releasing this it would reduce retainage from 5% to 2.5%. Moved by Brown, support by Vincent, CARRIED, that we recommend paying PA #16 in the amount of \$135,178.47. Discussion followed. Ayes: Brown, Medelis, Johnson. Nays: Vincent. Absent:

Den Boer. Brown stated that she wanted to know who is going to inspect sprayed areas and wants to see the map, Mike Pond promised, that shows areas identified as sprayed and what areas need more top soil and is there a punch list.

- c. Change Order 9: Board felt not enough information, tabled until September.
 - i. Date Change Request to October 31, 2017
 - ii. Reduce Cost - \$824.41
- d. Amendment 4 – Informational only.

New Business: None

Public Comment: Mike Schnorr, 306 E. Truman Blvd. - wanted to know where the 3 W&L office employees went and are they still paid by W&L. John Bergman, 411 E. Ave. A - stated he would like to see the office open a couple of days to be able to make in-person payments of W&L bills.

Comments by Board Members: Brown stated she was happy to see everyone at the meeting and appreciated everyone expressing their feelings in a civil way. Medelis stated that voting for the rate change was a very painful thing to do but felt they had to do it.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Vincent, support by Johnson, **CARRIED**, to adjourn meeting at 7:24 p.m.
Ayes: All. Absent: Den Boer.

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

Terese Schummer, Clerk

Charles Medelis, Chairperson

**Newberry Water & Light Board
Superintendent of Water & Light
Matt Perry**

July 1-31, 2017

- Miss Digs
- Work Orders
- Guy Wire (4 Mile Corner)
- New service W Victory
- Replaced line 207 E Ave C
- Outages- Dump Road Cutout
- Outages-Cutout W. County Rd 430
- Outage- East Side (Trees) (4 fuses)
- Power Surges (403 W. John) (Bad connection)
- OSHA Compliance
- Asset Management (DEQ)
- Samples (Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids) (Lead and Copper)
- Well pump tests
- Well 7 failure- Pressure Transmitter
- Brushing (W John Dump Rd)
- Red Tags
- Christmas Lights/Bells
- Exercise Fairbanks
 - For 2 hrs on July 18th
 - Requested to run 1 hr on July 20th
- Requesting Operator to attend Fairbanks Morse opposed piston engine overhaul training
 - October 9th-20th 2017 Price \$6,000.00
- Upon availability