

NEWBERRY WATER & LIGHT BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 12, 2018

**Present:** Chairperson Medelis, Brown, Vincent.

**Absent:** Feldhusen.

**Also Present:** Village Manager – James-Mesloh, Assistant Village Manager – Vallad, Superintendent of W&L – Perry, Clerk – Schummer, Steve Stiffler, Scott Ouellette, Chuck Pipes, Bruce Lane, Lori Stokes.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Medelis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Village of Newberry Offices, 302 East McMillan Avenue, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Vincent, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to approve agenda as submitted. Ayes: All.

Absent: Feldhusen.

**Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Vincent, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to approve minutes from the May 7, 2018 W&L meeting as presented. Ayes: All. Absent: Feldhusen. There was discussion as to whether Brown could vote, as she was not present at the meeting of the minutes being approved. Corrections were made to the minutes, as Lori Stokes pointed out an error, later in the meeting. In the original minutes Downey was listed as absent and listed absent in six votes. In the corrected minutes Downey is eliminated from the absent and voting lists.

**Water and Light Chairperson Announcements:** Chairman Medelis stated that there is an opening on the Water & Light Board and that if anyone is interested to contact him or John DeWitt and they should also submit a letter of interest.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items:** Comments heard from: Lori Stokes – 301 W. John Street and Scott Ouellette – 418 ½ W. John.

**Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:**

- A.) Water & Light Monthly Bills – Motion by Brown, support by Vincent, **CARRIED**, recommend Village Council pay the May 2018 Electric Fund bill in the amount of \$132,452.60. Ayes: All. Absent: Feldhusen.
- B.) Motion by Vincent, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, recommend Village Council pay the May 2018 Water Fund bill in the amount of \$11,266.53. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Absent: Feldhusen.
- C.) Christmas Light Fund is currently at \$12,907.79.
- D.) Water & Light – Cash Balance – April 2018, was reviewed.

**Petitions and Communications:** None.

**Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions:** None.

**Reports of Village Management:**

- 1.) Superintendent of Water and Light: Perry gave a verbal as well as written report. He stated that there would be a maintenance outage on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 or 7 a.m. Superintendent Perry stated that this meeting would probably be his last as he is retiring at the end of July and will be on vacation most of July. A discussion was held regarding the urgent need to hire a lineman.
- 2.) Assistant Village Manager: Vallad gave a verbal report. He asked permission to purchase good topsoil to fix the grassy areas affected by the water project. Vallad also discussed the Rate Change Evaluation from Michigan Rural Water Association. The recommendation is a flat-rate of \$77.92, he doesn't recommend it, would like to wait till the end of the budget-year and an audit, next spring, look at it again. If we went back to the per-thousand rate the base rate would be \$60.00 and the per-thousand would be \$11.56.
- 3.) Village Manager: James-Mesloh gave a verbal report. She stated that she met with the Ministerial Association about how to let people know where to go if they need assistance with their utility bills. May put the assistance information on the cut-off tags. The Audit is ongoing. She stated the pre-sale tickets for the circus are going well, this will benefit the Save the Bells project.

**Reports of Committees:** None.

**Unfinished Business:**

- 1.) Water Project Grass: Discussed during Assistant Village Manager's report.
- 2.) Circus to Support Christmas Bells: discussed during the Village Manager's report.

**New Business:**

- 1.) Review of Water Rate Study: Discussed during Assistant Village Manager's report.

**Comments by Board Members:** Medelis stated that he made the decision to have one *Public Comment* period and that according to Robert's Rules you are allowed to have just one, so he feels he is not breaking any freedom of speech rules as was suggested during public comment earlier. He also reiterated that the water rates would remain the same for now. Medelis also would like to have the Village look into taking money in the Village office again. Vincent explained the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), as it had been brought up during public comment at a past meeting. Regarding a comment made during public comment, Brown clarified there is not a conflict of interest by having Village Council Trustees on the W&L Board, as the two Trustees are appointed by the Council to be the liaisons between the two bodies.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Vincent, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to adjourn meeting at 6:19 p.m. Ayes: All. Absent: Feldhusen.

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

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Terese Schummer, Clerk

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Charles Medelis, Chairperson