

NEWBERRY WATER & LIGHT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2017

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent - Perry, Assistant Village Manager - Vallad, Village Manager - James-Mesloh, Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement - Watkins, Clerk - Schummer, Kirby Wendt, Colleen Hubbard, Steve Gwizdala, Jeanette Wing.

Call to Order: Chairman Medelis called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. at the Village of Newberry Offices followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Moved by Brown, support by Johnson, **CARRIED**, to approve the August 15, 2017, regular meeting minutes with the following correction: Page 1, Public comments, 4th line second sentence, read: It was not an informational meeting - now reads: It was an informational meeting. Ayes: All.

Water and Light Chairperson Announcements: None.

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

A.) Water & Light Monthly Bills – August 2017: Motion by Brown, support by Johnson, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of the Electric Fund in the amount of \$132,593.78. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Motion by Johnson, support by Vincent, **CARRIED**, to pay the Water Fund in the amount of \$976.21. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.

B.) Christmas Lights Fund is currently at \$8,413.13.

C.) Water & Light – Cash Balance – August 2017.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: Some of the public comments made were:

- Jeanette Wing, 424 Railroad Street, stated that she would like to register a complaint about the raise in W&L bills. She is upset about having such a large bill.
- Colleen Hubbard, owns 7 rental units in the Village, asked if one of her units doesn't pay their bill will the rest of the units be shut off. She stated that her tenants might have to move out of the Village because they can't afford to pay the rate hike.

Petitions and Communications:

Letter received from Mary Nutkins and Nancy Barket opposing the change in water and sewer rates.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions:

Resolution of Board Member Vacancy – informational only. The Board position, that is currently open, is a 'member at large' position, which means the candidate may live outside of the Village.

Reports of Village Management:

Village Manager: James-Mesloh discussed issues customers are having with the new water and sewer rates.

Assistant Village Manager: Vallad gave a presentation on the Water and Sewer rates. A lengthy discussion followed.

Superintendent of Water and Light: Perry gave a written as well as a verbal report, which included the following: Trees Inc. will be here to next Monday. The Village crew has been brushing in town. DEQ samples have been finished up and came back good. The apprentices will be gone to school in Cadillac for two weeks. Discussion followed.

Reports of Committees:

1. Policy Committee – Policy Revisions Updates: Medelis stated that there are a number of policy changes the Board is recommending to the Village Council. A written guide was presented to the Board of the policy changes/updates that have been finished so far, as of September 5th. The next Policy meeting will be September 18th at 1:00 p.m. Discussion followed.

Unfinished Business:

1. Restoration of Excavated Areas for Water Project – Updates: The Village Manager stated that Mike Pond and Oberstar will be here Sept. 13-14 to add top soil, seed and mulch; hopefully this will conclude the restoration.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: The following are some of the comments made by: Kirby Wendt, 517 W. Victory Way, Wendt asked about whether there will be face to face payments in the future. He asked about rentals and how the water would be shut off when rentals are on the same line. He also wanted to know why his neighbor is able have his own well and he could not.

Comments by Board Members: Brown stated that everyone was invited to the TORC, Friday, September 15th at 3:30 for the dedication of the "Purple Barney" handicap swing.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Johnson, support by Vincent, **CARRIED**, to adjourn meeting at 7:39 p.m. Ayes: All. These minutes are unapproved until voted on at the next meeting.