

**MINUTES  
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Bernstein, Christopherson, DeLoach, Fredricks, Groschen; Commissioner: McCune; Public Works Director: Reed Town Board Liaison: McCune  
Absent: Hesse, Pehrson;

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions):** DeLoach moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2019:** Bernstein moved the approval of the November 8, 2018 Minutes. DeLoach seconded. Ayes all.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** DeLoach moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: 4A) Monthly Sewer & Water Report / Watermain Leak Reports; 4B) Receive EDAB Minutes; 4C) Receive Republic Services Monthly Service Report. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Water Gremlin:** In the fall of 2018, Water Gremlin Company had requested a Permitted Use Standards Permit to allow an addition to the equipment building. There was a piece of equipment sticking out of the top of a building as the equipment was taller than the structure; the structure was built around the equipment. In January of 2019, Water Gremlin Company withdrew their application to the Town Board for the permit, and since has been in the news. There have been two hearings scheduled about Water Gremlin regarding the air incident reported in late January. Water Gremlin had been emitting too much trichloroethylene (TCE) according to the Minnesota Pollution Control (MPCA). **GIS Implementation:** GIS (Geographic Information Systems) is a mapping technology used by many of the surrounding cities in the metro area. It allows the user to create and interact with data collected over periods of time and the Township wants to implement it into the water, sewer, and storm water data/asset management for the Township. The GIS will help map out the water lines, read meters with 1-2 centimeter accuracy, and ultimately save time and money by electronically storing and reading all this data. The Township has already set aside capital improvement funds for the implementation. **Pavement Management Program:** The Town Board has authorized TKDA to develop a Pavement Management Plan. TKDA has started by evaluating Township streets, identifying the streets and rating the streets in priority of need of most repair. The next question is finding a funding mechanism to pay for the street projects. Town Engineer Larry Poppler and Finance Officer Tom Kelley have more information on Agenda Item 8. **5585 Portland Avenue:** The lawsuit relative to this property is near the end. The Town now

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owns the property. A marketing plan is being prepared for the property and development options for the property are being reviewed.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:** The Public Works Activity Report for December 2018 and January 2019 were reviewed. **Lift Station #9** is the last lift station to line with the sanitary sewer line. **Water meter replacement agreement** will be brought to the Board in February. Commissioner McCune brought the **GIS Implementation** to the Commission's attention. **SCADA upgrade** in summer 2019 for the Hammond Road water tower. SCADA is an electronic sensor placed in a water tower to monitor the water levels and usage. It can prevent overflow problems.

**WATER TOWER OVERFLOW DISCUSSION:** On January 30, 2019, during some of the coldest temperatures on record (-51 degrees), frozen pipes caused an overflow from the tower. The pipe gelled up near the hydraulic panel so the sensor couldn't read that the water levels were fine. The water tower kept filling up to the point of overflow, covering nearby streets with ice. The tower gushed about 160 thousand gallons of water. The plan going forward is to put a SCADA local panel with a sensor less temperamental to weather conditions, so this doesn't happen again. Volunteers and city officials got the streets cleaned up quickly, and the one neighbor whose basement leaked water was understanding.

**2019 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – DISCUSSION:** Larry Poppler took an assessment of the streets in the Township and rated them accordingly. The Pavement Management Plan takes into consideration the street ratings over the years, on a scale of 0-5. 0-2.2 is red, and currently there are 11 miles of streets in this zone. The Plan's goal is to keep all streets within the 3.4-3.6 (yellow) zone, meanwhile a freshly paved street would be between 3.7-5. There are three factors that are considered within the rating: cracking, seal coat, and mill and overlay. Maintaining streets are costly, as noted in the Pavement Management Plan and the executive summary put together by the TKDA. The executive summary is to ensure the Township is monitoring and proactively keeping and improving the streets over time.

The yellow zone sweet spot, 3.4-3.6, has been found to be the most cost effective time to improve streets construction wise, as the goal is to have streets that will have a 60-year street life. The Township will phase in the street investments over a 10-year period to lessen the tax burden of the citizens. White Bear Township has the third lowest tax rate in Ramsey County and therefore is trying to keep those taxes low, but also maintain travel and safety for the citizens. All of this information will also be discussed at the annual meeting on March 12. There will also be an informational hearing about the tax increase on February 27.

DeLoach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Fredricks seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Cavanaugh  
Recording Secretary