

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

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

Present: Fredericks, Groschen, Pehrson; Commissioner: McCune; Public Works Director: Reed; Advisor: Christopherson.

Absent: Bernstein, DeLoach, Hesse, with notice.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): Pehrson moved to approve the agenda as submitted, adding in a couple agenda items: Republic Recycling to 5A and Dropbox to Agenda Items 8A. Fredericks seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2018: Fredericks moved the approval of the November 8, 2018 Minutes, with the alteration of a few typos. Pehrson seconded. Ayes all.

CONSENT AGENDA: Pehrson moved to approve of the Consent Agenda as follows: 4A) Monthly Sewer & Water Report / Watermain Leak Reports; 4B) Receive EDAB Minutes; 4C) Receive Republic Services Monthly Service Report; 4D) Receive Solid Waste Abatement Report. Fredericks seconded. Ayes all.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Water Gremlin: What has happened with this company is serving to be a learning opportunity for the Township. Every time more information is released and people respond, it brings clarity to the situation. There are still a lot of unknowns and the affected residents in the Township are in the same boat and are concerned about their health. The most recent items breaking news are the amendments that were passed in the Minnesota Congress fine tuning the bills so the fine Water Gremlin pays is more centered on those directly affected by the air pollutants. **Annual Meeting:** The Town's Annual Meeting took place on March 12, 2019 at Otter Lake Elementary School. There were presentations regarding the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the Pavement Management Program, the 2020 Proposed Tax Levy, and other news regarding the community. The Pavement Management Presentation went well; people are getting more information. There will be more informational meetings as time gets closer to the construction process. For the first time since 2015 there will be a Tax Debt Levy due to the need of Pavement Management on Township roads. A question was asked of the Township's property, The Stable of White

MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 14, 2019

Bear, on Portland Avenue. The Township is ensuring legal requirements are met, continuously working to get ready to market, but it is not known if it will get on the market in 2019 yet. West Bald Eagle Boulevard will be repaved this summer from H2 north to County Road J. It will be “good but painful,” costing about \$750,000. **Water Meter Replacement:** Settlement for water replacement agreement has been signed on the Township’s side. The settlement is being looked over on the manufacturer and vendor’s side and will be signed and put into motion. The Township was hoping to get this item started earlier in the year, nevertheless it will be completed this year. The water meter replacements will be paid through the Town’s Water Fund, not by residents. The cost is about \$750,000.

REPUBLIC RECYCLING: A representative from Republic Recycling gave an overview of Township statistics. The Township recycled about 1,183 tons of materials. She stated that the market is still strong, though it looks different since China, a consumer of about 30% of recycled materials, doesn’t want recycling from the US. Recycling plants have to figure out how to cope with the loss of capital and the strain of product. This is changing prices and methods in many communities across the country. Republic explained that the price consumers pay for recycling is calculated as follows: a collection fee, plus a processing fee, plus the disposal of residual, minus the commodity sales equals the cost of recycling. The majority of a monthly recycling bill goes toward the collection and processing fee. Republic is coming out with new services to combat losing China as a consumer: for example, an extra recycling schedule. A big part of those new services include informing the public on correct recycling tactics to cut down on overhead costs in processing; not every product that is labeled ‘recyclable’ is. The every other week schedule is going to be discussed by Staff at the next meeting, and could be easily added to the current contract with Republic at no cost to the Township if there is a public need for it.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Activity Report for February 2019 was reviewed. **GIS Implementation:** The GIS Implementation will start in Ramsey County’s base map layer, beginning soon. The GIS/Asset Management Project will be discussed at the February’s Executive Meeting. **Budget:** The Public Works budget remained balanced through the winter season though there was more expenses due to frequent snow removal. **Water Quality:** Water towers continue to stay on track since the overflow in late January. Staff discussed Department of Health findings specific to Manganese (naturally occurring mineral) in Township wells. The Township executed a corrective action successfully and levels have been re-established to MDH requirements.

STORMWATER PROJECTS: The Public Works Director identified stormwater projects relating to repair of outfalls. The Utility Commission, at its February 8, 2018 meeting, moved to recommend to the Town Board that \$100,000 of the Stormwater Utility Fund be available for stormwater projects as reviewed at that meeting. The Public Works Director reported that the outfall #5 located at West Bald Eagle Boulevard and St. Anthony and outfall #6, located at East Bald Eagle Boulevard and Park Avenue were

MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 14, 2019

recommended to be repaired. He noted that since grant funding has been received, the two projects will cost \$27,500 (\$70,000 without grant funding). This provides funding for additional stormwater projects. After review and recommendation by the Public Works Director, it was the consensus that all the outfalls: numbers: 9, 3, 16, 17, and 35 be added to the list of 2018 projects using the additional funding. It was the consensus that the Stormwater Project Listing is a very helpful tool for the Utility Commission in reviewing stormwater projects. There will be more information and discussion at April's Utility Meeting.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: The next meeting date is scheduled to be April 11, 2019. The Township is giving the opportunity for Staff to receive meeting packets via Dropbox to save paper.

Pehrson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Fredericks seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Cavanaugh
Recording Secretary