

**MINUTES  
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING  
JUNE 13, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: DeLoach, Fredericks, Groschen, Hesse, Pehrson; Advisor: Christopherson.

Absent: Bernstein; Public Works Director: Reed; Commissioner: McCune, all with notice.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2019:** Hesse moved the approval of the May 9, 2019 Minutes. Pehrson seconded. Ayes all.

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

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner McCune was not present to report.

**STORMWATER PROJECTS – UPDATE:** This agenda item went in discussion with the following item: the Pavement Management Plan update. At the May meeting, the Public Works Director had laid out the 50 plus stormwater projects for the next 5 years. At the end, the Town may very well repeat the process. In the first year, it was noted that the Public Works Director estimates \$315,800 for the stormwater improvements. It was the Financial Officer's advice to potentially bond for this amount in conjunction with the bonding for the pavement management plan, because more is coming in the following years.

At the Town Board Meeting of June 3, 2019, there was a more pertinent stormwater project brought to the Board's attention, and the Board approved continuing with that project first.

A handout was given at the Utility Commission meeting that included the 2018 rate outline with new improvements, which included a visual representation on how much of the Commission was leaning at the May meeting toward this agenda item (i.e. not

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bonding). A following New Rate Study with new improvements was discussed. The only difference between the two Studies were the rates of increase for Storm Water that the residents would pay, a steady increase of about a dollar or a little more per year in the second scenario verses a few higher jumps in the not bonding scenario. If the Township did not bond for the stormwater project, at the end of all 10 years, the Township would be in the red \$668,871.65. However, according to the second Study, that takes into account the amount bonded, and what the gain will do after each improvement, the Township is only in the red \$111,174.56. It was also discussed that the Township could potentially break even if stormwater projects and the street improvement project could be bonded together.

There was also discussion on how much cash the Stormwater Fund should have on hand in case of emergency. It was the consensus that there will be more information at the July meeting regarding numbers and rates. The Commission should expect to make a recommendation to the Town Board on a number value for the cash the Stormwater Fund should have on hand in case of emergency at the July meeting.

**PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN – UPDATE:** The Commission was updated on the Special Town Board Public Hearing in regards to the Street Improvement Plan on June 4, 2019 where Town Engineer Larry Poppler presented the road upgrade plan and answered questions. There was discussion of the stormwater projects first and how those could play into the pavement management plan in five years' time.

As of now, nothing is set in stone, but Staff are anxious to get the ball rolling. This year the project will cost 1.2 million because the Board felt that residents would not accept the 4 million project right off the bat. There was discussion of the condition of the roads, the fact that they won't improve unless acted upon, and that costs will not get lower in the future. This is a project that has to get done.

There was discussion of the different types of road improvements: mill and overlay – the most cost effective, able to be completed on roads showing less degradation, and how many of the 2019's streets will be improved; reclamation – a more expensive street improvement project, only one street on the 2019's streets will be improved this way; and a reconstruction – the most expensive measure of street repair, the option Town Engineers are trying to avoid by opting for mill and overlays before it is too late for streets.

There was discussion of assessment, and it was noted that the 100% assessment per street/neighborhood would not be implemented. Everyone uses the streets, after all, in one way or another. The way the Township has assessed the residents includes that all will pay a much smaller percentage so everyone can share the burden. When it comes down to it, it was noted, the average resident will pay an extra \$20-\$25 per month on the tax bill.

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If the street improvement project and the stormwater projects could bond together, 60-65% of the bond would be for the streets and 35-40% would be for the stormwater projects. It was noted that the rate of return with the bond is 3.85%. The Town's Financial Planner has the official rate study. A question was brought up whether the Commission could receive the last three years' worth of stormwater expenses. It was the consensus that the Town Clerk could get the Commission the last five years' worth to look at.

More will be discussed at the July meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:** The Public Works Director was not present to discuss the Public Works Report for May 2019, but the Commission looked it over and found no other items in need of discussing at the time.

**ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** The next meeting date is scheduled to be July 11, 2019. There was some discussion of the water level of Bald Eagle Lake and the micro-organisms entering the lake by way of White Bear Lake. It was noted that Rice Creek Watershed District will do something to target this issue.

DeLoach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Hesse seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Cavanaugh  
Recording Secretary