

MINUTES

**TOWN OF YORKVILLE
SEWER UTILITY DISTRICT COMMISSION
TOWN BOARD ROOM
UNION GROVE MUNICIPAL CENTER
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015**

Call to Order

Sewer Utility District Commission President Peter Hansen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

The following Sewer Utility District Commission members were present: Peter Hansen, Sherry Gruhn, Terrence McMahon and Leo DeBrabander. Thomas Johnson was absent. Also present were Michael Willkomm representing Highlands PETRO Travel Store, Sewer Utility District Manager Gary Hanson, Engineer Al Jeske and Clerk-Treasurer Michael McKinney.

Approval of Minutes

Motion (McMahon, Gruhn) to approve the April 16, 2015 Sewer Utility District Commission meeting minutes as submitted, Motion Carried (MC).

Approval of Sewer Utility District Financial Reports

Motion (McMahon, Gruhn) to approve the April Sewer Utility District financial reports as submitted, MC.

Approval of Sewer Utility District Invoices

Motion (Gruhn, McMahon) to approve Sewer Utility District invoices in the amount of \$23,728.41, MC.

New and Unfinished Business – Discussion and possible action on all of the following:

Sewer Service Rate Changes

Hanson provided background information on the sewer service rate change, noting that the utility switched from using residential equivalency units to calculate sewer service charges for most commercial customers to a volumetric rate based upon their water use. He noted that the rate established for this purpose was \$13.35 per 1,000 gallons of water used. He noted that this change also included the implementation of a surcharge for excess total suspended solids (TSS) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) levels. He added that the sewer utility began losing money in 2008 and continues to lose money on an annual basis.

Michael Willkomm appeared before the Commission to discuss the increase in sewer rates for his business, located at 717 South Sylvania Avenue. He noted that this was the second significant increase in about 2 years and added that he cannot absorb such a cost increase.

He questioned whether the Commission reviewed the sewer service rates in other municipalities before deciding to raise their own rates. He requested that the Commission provide him with a rate adjustment. Hansen noted that the utility cannot expand its customer base and must collect enough revenue to cover sewer utility expenditures.

The Commission discussed various options to address these issues, including reducing sewer rates and buying sewer capacity from Mount Pleasant to connect to the Racine Wastewater Utility system. Hanson noted that he planned to have BOD and TSS testing done next week at 717 South Sylvania Avenue to determine if BOD and TSS levels have decreased enough there to justify a reduction in BOD and TSS surcharges for this customer. He added that he would review the water use for this customer to see if a reduction in sewer charges was appropriate.

No formal action was taken by the Commission on this agenda item.

AECOM's Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Analysis

Hanson noted that this analysis indicates that the sewer treatment plant does not have sufficient capacity to include more customers and added that approvals from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to expand the plant or the utility district boundaries would be very difficult to obtain. He added that AECOM is willing to contact Mount Pleasant to determine what the cost would be to purchase sewer capacity from them to allow the sewer utility to connect to the Racine Wastewater Utility and added that this work would cost approximately \$2,500.00.

Motion (Gruhn, Hansen) to authorize an additional \$2,500.00 in expenditures on the AECOM contract for Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Analysis - Phase I, MC.

Milwaukee School of Engineering Student Project Presentation

Hanson provided a summary of these presentations to the Commission, including the proposed upgrades necessary to bring the sewer treatment plant into compliance with state-mandated phosphorus limits as well as the cost of these proposed upgrades.

No formal action was taken by the Commission on this agenda item.

2014 Sewer Utility Audit

McKinney noted that the sewer utility's cash fund balance decreased from \$342,207 at the end of 2013 to \$291,053 at the end of 2014, a decrease of \$51,154 or approximately 15%.

No formal action was taken by the Commission on this agenda item.

Reports

Sewer Utility District Manager's Report - Hanson reported to the Commission on the following:

- That the phosphorus reduction pilot testing project has begun at the sewer treatment plant. Hanson noted that early results indicate that the current chemical treatment option

may be successful in lowering phosphorus levels to within the utility's upcoming new phosphorus limits. He added that the chemical currently being tested costs \$15.00 per gallon. He stated that a second testing option will begin operating at the treatment plant on June 15.

- That the portable generator was recently repaired at a cost of \$3,500.00
- That he received letters of non-compliance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for high chloride, ammonia and nitrogen levels in effluent

Engineer's Report - Jeske noted that he remains busy with sewer utility locate requests. He added that sewer sampling will begin next week and will continue throughout most of the summer.

Clerk's Report - McKinney noted that the Commission will meet on June 16 to tour the Sewer Utility treatment plant, located at 14100 Washington Avenue (STH 20), and the Water Utility well site, located behind 1360 Grandview Parkway. He added that the regularly scheduled Sewer Utility District Commission meeting will begin immediately upon the conclusion of the Sewer and Water Utility tour. The Commission chose to move the start time of the tour from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Other – Comments, questions and suggestions

No comments, questions or suggestions were provided.

Adjournment

Motion (McMahon, Gruhn) to adjourn, MC. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. The next scheduled Sewer Utility District Commission meeting is Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at the Water Utility well house, located behind 1360 Grandview Parkway, and will begin upon the conclusion of the 6:00 p.m. tour of the Sewer and Water Utility treatment facilities located at 14100 Washington Avenue (STH 20) and behind 1360 Grandview Parkway.

Michael McKinney
Clerk-Treasurer