

**Lanesboro Public Utilities
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:00 a.m.
Lanesboro Community Center Meeting Room and Zoom**

Present: Elliot Riggott, Jon Pieper and Brian Roelofs

Absent: None

Staff/Council Present: Deputy Clerk Darla Taylor and Member Mindy Albrecht-Benson

Visitors: Bonita Underbakke

Regular Meeting:

Commissioner Pieper called the regular meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

- A. Public Comments:** No comments were shared
- B. Agenda:** Member Riggott motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Member Roelofs seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- C. Consent Agenda:** Member Riggott motioned to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Member Roelofs seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
 - Minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 20, 2022
 - Accounts Payable
- D. Wastewater Treatment Facility Update:** Administrator Peterson shared that training has started for some of the equipment in the new plant. The project to connect the effluent pipe to the new plant has been completed. Automatic Systems is coming this week to start programming the equipment within the plant.
- E. Street & Utility Improvement Project Update:** Administrator Peterson noted the underground power for the Cottage House has been relocated so that it is no longer in the street. Crews are working on the street lights, while most underground work in the Coffee, Beacon, Rochelle area is complete. As of last Wednesday the project was approximately one week behind, paving is scheduled to be completed the first week of November.
- F. Staff Update:** Over the weekend it was noted that there were communication issues with our SCADA system. After investigating it was noted that there was a problem with a battery backup, the repair has been completed. Although further investigation will need to be completed by Automatic Systems. On Friday last week there was a brief power outage due to a blown fuse in a transformer caused by a squirrel. Repairs have also been completed. Work is underway to winterize facilities, and ensure the heat is on so that sensors do not freeze. Work will also be done to coordinate with the Park department to turn off the water to the park and blow out the water lines.
- G. City Council Update:** It was noted that the Council is working on completing the 2023 budget. Additionally the Council approved a development agreement for the installation sewer lines, and improvements to Hillside Avenue. This work will not be completed this fall due to scheduling constraints.

Regular Business

A. Continued Business:

- a. 2023 Budget:** Members requested additional data for Electric usage trends, as well as rate schedule spreadsheets for water and sewer, finally a copy of the debt schedule for Public Utilities. Information will be provided for the November meeting.
- b. Housing Incentives:** Members discussed the expense of installing new infrastructure, and felt that grants for development should come from other sources than the Public Utilities. Member Pieper motioned to not provide utility incentives. Member Roelofs seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- c. Electric Meter Replacement:** Meter installation testing will be happening, additional information will be provided once that is complete.
- d. MMUA Safety Training:** Staff members are looking into the possibility of a Regional Safety Group, while taking into consideration staff time and location. Additional training may be completed on site to minimize time out of the office.
- e. Capital Projects:**
 - i. Carbon Neutrality:** Member Pieper is investigating potential opportunities. There was a \$42 million grant from Excel Energy for the Treasure Island Community to create a micro-grid. Supervisor Wagner will provide information for high peak, average usage per day, generator size, and hydro generation information.
 - ii. Drip Lines Investigations:** New mandates may help to provide funding to complete these investigations within the next several years.
 - iii. Storm Sewer Investigations:** New mandates may help to provide funding to complete these investigations within the next several years.
 - iv. Land Acquisition:** Discussion began with the question of starting our own incinerator, members will look into the proximity of the nearest facility as well as the overall potential of such a project. Member Riggott motion to send out letters as originally drafted. Member Pieper seconded the motion. Discussion continued questioning what the barriers are for land owners to accept land applications. Member Riggott rescinded his motion. Supervisor Wagner and Administrator Peterson will reach out to local landowners to gain an understanding of what those barriers are. Discussion to be continued.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting: Motion was made by Commissioner Roelofs to adjourn the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Commission at 10:41 a.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Riggott. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Administrator/Clerk