

Approved 05/16/2023

**Lanesboro Public Utilities
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Lanesboro Community Center Meeting Room and Zoom**

Present: Jon Pieper, Elliot Riggott, 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 10:00 a.m.

- A. Public Comments:** Bonita Underbakke shared questions relating to pfas and biosolids land application.
- B. Agenda:** Member Roelofs motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of: Underground Power to New Business. Member Riggott 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, February 21, 2023
 - Accounts Payable
- D. Staff Update:** Supervisor Wagner noted that a significant amount of staff time is being spent learning and running the new Wastewater Treatment Facility. Currently three twenty acre sites for land application of biosolids, these sites will need to be approved by the State, County, and Township as well. Wagner will have estimated trade figures for next month's meeting for the Utilities truck to be replaced this year. Additionally Wagner and Peterson are meeting with KLM Engineering next week to discuss final plans for tower maintenance on the north tower. Finally Wagner will meet with MiEnergy to firm up the actual cost for electric meter replacement. A muffler is being installed on the blower motor at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The solar installation for the school will be commissioned this Friday at 2 p.m.
- E. City Council Update:** Member Albrecht-Benson noted she would like to see the annual budget transfer of \$70,000 reduced using a phased approach and will be presenting this idea to the Council for consideration. Administrator Peterson will provide a recommendation for expensing the estimated shortfall of \$30,000 for meter replacement to the Council. It was noted that the meter replacement could not be done in stages, due to the fact that it is a new system, therefore all will need to be done at the same time.
- F. EV Smart Program:** Administrator Peterson shared the slides from the first meeting with the program. Lanesboro will be working towards implementation of EV's into the Comprehensive Plan, City Ordinances, as well as information to be placed on the City website. Peterson and Supervisor Wagner have a one on one meeting this month to set goals and objectives for this program for Lanesboro.

Regular Business

A. New Business:

- a. Solar Interconnections:** Member Pieper questioned the amount of interconnections that the system could handle prior to causing any problems with our purchase power contracts. Supervisor Wagner noted that all systems are sized to load, therefore property owners can not install a system larger than they can use. All applications for interconnection are reviewed by the electrical engineer. Wagner also shared that the solar field is sized to meet Lanesboro's minimum load requirements.
- b. Fund Balances and Investment Information:** Administrator Peterson shared the current fund balances for water, sewer, and electric operations. The city council will be reviewing an investment opportunity at the April meeting. The council will review an option to invest in a 4M product through the League of MN Cities. This could also be an option for Public Utilities should the Council move forward. Currently the 4M product is earning 4.6%, while the City account through Merchants is earning 1.5%. Peterson will bring information for the commission to review for the April meeting, based on how the council votes to move forward.
- c. Underground Power:** Supervisor Wagner attained a quote to bury the electrical infrastructure along the river in the alley parallel to Parkway Avenue and ending at Coffee Street West. The estimate to bury the infrastructure was \$50,000 to \$55,000. Given that this project is not on the priority list currently a recommendation to move forward was not provided. Instead the information will be placed within the capital improvement plan and prioritized accordingly. Additionally the information will be shared with the Lanesboro Economic Development Authority to consider alternate funding sources for this project.

B. Continued Business:

- a. Capital Projects:**
 - i. Land Application:** There are three twenty acre sites for land application of biosolids, these sites will need to be approved by the State, County, and Township as well.
 - ii. Electric Meter Replacement:** Wagner will meet with MiEnergy to firm up the actual cost for electric meter replacement.

C. Miscellaneous:

- a.** Smith Schafer will present an overview of the 2022 Audit for the City and Public Utilities on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting: Motion was made by Commissioner Riggott to adjourn the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Commission at 10:30 a.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Roelofs . Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Administrator/Clerk