

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 11, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Bernstein, DeLoach, Fredericks, Groschen, Hesse; Advisor: Christopherson; Commissioner: McCune.

The meeting was held at the Town Offices Conference Room. Present there was the Town Clerk, Bernstein, Groschen, and Commissioner. The others were present via telephone conference. The motions, seconds, and votes were stated by roll call as directed for those over the phone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): Hesse moved to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of discussion of correspondence with Ideal Energies as an added agenda item. DeLoach seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2021: DeLoach moved the approval of the February 11, 2021 minutes noting the correction of the sentence in the Public Works Director Report about the manholes and watermain repairs to include “RCWD staff”, “review with their Board” and “submitted by the Township” to clarify the difference between RCWD Board and the Town Board. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

CONSENT AGENDA: Bernstein moved to receive consent agenda item 4A) Receive Monthly Service Report; 4B) Watermain Leak Reports; DeLoach seconded. Ayes all.

It was noted that the Town Clerk put in another request, for the breakdown of waste abatement report and it was stated that it will be available for the April Utility Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT: Supervisor McCune was present to update the Commission on the **Annual Meeting** which was held on Tuesday, March 9th, but was continued to Tuesday, June 8th citing pandemic safety concerns. The Board has had ongoing discussion regarding **nuisance properties**, and staff is trying to help neighbors understand that the Town cannot throw residents out. It is a long process. The Town is also continuing to try new avenues of marketing the **Stable property**. The Town has received a few bids that did not reflect the value of the property. A new position of

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Municipal Services Coordinator was posted this month and there have been very good responses. The posting will close next Wednesday, staff is expecting interviews to be in April and the person hired will start in May. This person will work with the Town Building Inspector and the Public Works Team. The **Street Improvements 2021/2022 and South Shore Boulevard** have been discussed thoroughly this winter. The Town Board is moving 2021 along by approving the plans and specifications. The project is going out for bid soon.

REFUSE CONTRACT – DRAFT RAMSEY COUNTY RFP: The Town Clerk reported that staff has received a draft of the RFP. Staff is suggesting the Utility Commission look at what they have requested in the RFP and discuss it. There was discussion over the timing of the contract and different options the Township may be interested in like 1 year or 3 years, maybe 2 years. There was some agreement on three years. There was some discussion on new providers needing a contract of maybe 4 or 5 years because they would have to obtain more equipment and need the contract to balance that out. There was discussion on surveying the residents to get their thought. Staff could put a survey in the next utility bill.

There was some discussion over the items of the RFP. Staff will send a final RFP to the Commission members to review prior to the April meeting. There was some discussion over logistics. There will be more discussion at the April meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 18 (I & I) – A) POINT OF SALE SANITARY SEWER LINE INSPECTING/TELEVISIONING – B) ORDINANCE UPDATE: The Public Works Director included links in the email in the packet to start the research off on this subject matter. Commissioner McCune gave a back story of this agenda item in that he had discussed with other municipalities that home owners there were required to have the sanitary sewer televised and potentially cleaned upon the sale of their house. The Town's I & I is usually due to 70% of residential lines. The Town does maintain the lines currently, but with eyes on the Township for water quality concerns, the Board is trying to make wise decisions that benefits residents and the Town as a whole.

The Board has discussed this item and wanted to open it up to Town staff and Commission members. There was some questions and discussions on this topic. The Public Works Director gave the process for a typical home inspection that leads to I & I. The cost of inspection is usually between \$200 and \$400 depending on the company used, which the Town could refer companies. The cost of fixing a line could be between \$7,000 to \$10,000, which the Commission had more of an issue with due to the loss of resident's revenue in their home sale. There was discussion of this issue and it was noted that looking at it as the person purchasing the home, they would appreciate not having to pay, but either way in the long term someone would have to pay for the fixing.

It was decided that the Commission members will look more into this item, into the links that were in the email in the packet. The WSP site shows all the communities in the area that require the homeowner to pay at the point of sale for televising on sanitary

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sewer lines. There was some discussion of the Town perhaps chipping in or the Town obtaining grants from RCWD for residents. There was some discussion of local government aid, which the Township doesn't receive. There will be more discussion at the April meeting with more information.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Director was present to report on the Public Works Department Activity Report for February 2021. The **Water Quality Inspection Reports** are online and the **Consumer Confidence Reports** are also online. There was some discussion of the **sanitary sewer** flows from White Bear Lake into the Town's metershed #39. Staff determined that the amount from the City that discharges into the Town's metershed is equal to the amount that the Town discharges into the City's metershed. There was some discussion over the **bad batteries** for the water meters.

Water Gremlin: The Town Clerk reported to the Commission that Water Gremlin did have the Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Health contract with Wenck that did water samples around the site, and the Towns Well 5, and into Gem Lake. There was 1,4-dioxane found in the surface area in Gem Lake, which is more of a problem for private wells. The State is going to have Wenck continue to monitor the levels depending on the Minnesota agencies and there will be more discussion as time goes on, but for now the immediate situation is that everything from a Township position is A-OK and under control.

NEXT MEETING DATE / ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: **Correspondence with Ideal Energies about Solar Panels:** The Town Clerk read the correspondence that staff had received from Ideal Energies regarding onsite solar for the Township Offices. To get a quote from them they need a monthly Xcel Energy bill. There was some discussion on this. It was decided that the Commission is comfortable providing one Xcel Energy bill. There will be more discussion at the April meeting.

The next meeting date will be Thursday, April 8, 2021.

Hesse moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Cavanaugh
Recording Secretary