

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 15, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Bernstein, DeLoach, Groschen, Hesse; Advisor: Christopherson;
Commissioner: McCune;
Absent: Fredericks, without notice.

The meeting was held at the Heritage Hall 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): DeLoach moved to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of discussion of Met Council and other municipalities as item (c) of number (7) as an added agenda item. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2021: Hesse moved the approval of the March 11, 2021 minutes. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

CONSENT AGENDA: There was some discussion of missing pieces of the excel sheet. There wasn't a summary of separation by reason. There was consensus that this item will be tabled until next meeting for the Town Clerk to look into.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Supervisor McCune was present to update the Commission on the **Pavement Improvement Project** moving forward with resident meetings. The Town is in **discussion with Ramsey County regrading South Shore Boulevard** and has worked out specifics in the Memorandum of Understanding. The **Polar Lakes Park restrooms** will be constructed soon, with the completion date sometime in August. The **Municipal Services Coordinator position** is now closed and staff are in the second rounds of interviews for 3 candidates. There has been continued discussion regarding **nuisance properties within the Township**. The City of Gem Lake is in discussion with the Township regarding **Joint Powers Agreement changes** that will include some public works upkeep in exchange for funds. The Town **received \$1.3 million in the American Recovery Act** which can be applied to infrastructure

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work and lost revenue due to COVID. There will be more discovery of what the Town can use these funds for soon.

REFUSE CONTRACT – DRAFT RAMSEY COUNTY RFP: The Town Clerk reported that the RFP draft is finished, and he suggests going through it page by page to see if there are any comments, concerns, questions, or notes of things to add or subtract. The contract will be decided after that, since it will be completed after awarding bids is finished.

There was a note of changing some wording on page 2 to read “execution of actual contract” and change the date from July 1st to September 1st (corrected on other pages as well).

There was a note of changing some wording on page 3 to read “subject to rejection”. It was noted that 10 days is pretty standard.

There was some discussion of senior options on page 7. Seniors should get options of 68-gallon containers or 32-gallon containers.

There was a note of organics being taken into consideration, for page 8, as it will add in for future concerns.

There was discussion of Trash/Treasure Day, trash days, venues for Township Clean-up Day, etc. on page 9. It was decided that there should be better managed expectations, volume, time, venue, space, logistics, etc. of Clean-up Day, but that it won't be all solved this year, it will improve over time.

There was some discussion over survey results regarding Republic Services, and residents have completed surveys with positive points. There was some discussion over the attachments, like regarding price. There will be more discussion next month.

ORDINANCE NO. 18 (I & I) – A) POINT OF SALE SANITARY SEWER LINE INSPECTING/TELEVISIONING – B) ORDINANCE UPDATE – C) MET COUNCIL, OTHER MUNICIPALITIES: The Public Works Director reported that he included information of what it would cost to have a vendor perform inspection services for I & I at point of sale. Each city was different. Four cities within the metro area require point of sale I & I inspections: West Saint Paul, Moundsvew, Golden Valley (for past 6 years), and Orono. Reed also retrieved information from Duluth, which also requires point of sale I & I inspections.

There was some discussion of this, and it was noted that Minneapolis and Saint Paul don't have programs for this yet. It was also noted that the Metropolitan Council has some language of things to consider that should be looked at prior to a decision.

There was discussion of the impact to residents and how the Town should interact regarding this. There was discussion of warranties and other factors that have to do with

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televising and home sales. It was decided that this agenda item should be tabled until next month.

Bernstein made a motion to table this agenda item for next month for the Commissioners to think about, and talk about more next month. Hesse seconded. Ayes all.

IDEAL ENERGIES – UPDATE: The Town Clerk reported that staff is having ongoing discussion with a representative from Ideal Energies. And although he currently doesn't think it will be worth the cost, he will have more information for the Commission to consider at next month's meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Director was present to report on the Public Works Department Activity Report for February 2021. There was some brief discussion. Commissioner Bernstein brought up last year's road construction project's asphalt look after 6 months. He would like staff to review the pavement to see if the changes that he is experiencing are normal. Reed will look the southeast area over with the Town Engineer and report back next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE / ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: The next meeting date will be Thursday, May 13, 2021.

DeLoach brought up a company running trucks along Lakewood Avenue for sewer/pipe maintenance and there was some brief discussion regarding this issue.

Bernstein moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Hesse seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Cavanaugh
Recording Secretary