

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
July 13, 2004 7:00 P.M. FAYAL TOWN HALL

Chairman Bertucci called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL present were: Aultman, Bertucci, Campbell, Damberg, M. Erjavec, Kingston & Zlimen. Town Board Supervisors Tammaro & Beldo W/WWO Dickson and recording secretary Stewart.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- **Motion by M. Erjavec to approve the variance meeting minutes for Brian Pfiefer, second by Aultman. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.**
- **Motion by M. Erjavec to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 8, 2004, second by Campbell. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

GUEST

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 7-7-04 Cert of Liability insurance from Bontems excavating Discussion re: the limits on the certificate. He has \$1,000,000 in the general aggregate but only \$500,000 under each occurrence. The Township requires a minimum of \$1,000,000 limit in order to be an approved contractor Action- Call the insurance agent for the specifics.
- Delinquency report was reviewed we have \$14,000 in receivables to date.
- Receipt of 1st half of the taxes. We received \$1,571.96 from the County for the 2004 1st half of the delinquent utility bills.
- **Motion by Aultman to research how the County payments are apportioned, re: the delinquent utility bills, second by Damberg. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.**
- Billing register summary was reviewed.

WATER/WASTE WATER REPORT

W/WWO Dickson reports:

1. The Gorski property has been restored.
2. The manholes on Differding Point have been repaired by USA. The bituminous was cut the manhole exposed, wrapped with plastic, filled in with sand, and the sections were bolted together, bituminous repair still needs to be completed.
3. St Louis County regulations for abandoning an outhouse states, solids will be removed and properly disposed of, cover with fill, and mound for settlement. They can turn them into a shed.
4. 16 still need to be connected, 3 of them may pass the exemption. The 13 left, only 2 have not responded. Turner has extension until his case is settled. Tammaro reports the next step will be to send them citations on August 1, 2004.
5. Discovered a manhole under a new bituminous driveway. It was under the dirt for protection from plows. This is the 2nd from the end, with a turn. Lengthy discussion.
 - **Motion by Bertucci to pay for exposing the manhole and charge it to the sewer project litigation, second by Kingston.** Discussion; W/WWO recalls the Short Stop had to pay to raise up the manhole at there expense.
 - **All in favor with M. Erjavec opposing. Motion Carried.**
6. W/WWO has been checking manholes and discovered trees are planted over the main sewer line. We are concerned with access and damage by tree roots. Many cities have been dealing with problems such as I & I and sewer backups, caused by allowing trees to be planted in the easement areas. We would like to avoid these problems by keeping the easement areas clear of trees. Discussion held regarding the permanent easements. The easement was read. The W/WWO wants to know what the policy is re: the easements.

- **Motion by Aultman to seek legal counsel re: the existing easements to see if they are legally binding, and if the Town has the right to keep the easements clear. Second by Bertucci. Unanimously approved. Motion Carried.**

SEWER

1. Letter received from Jennifer Blevins and Jim Erchul, asking for permission to keep her permanent outhouse with a concrete holding tank.
- **Motion by Aultman to send a letter to them stating the section of the ordinance that does not allow for a permanent outhouse privy or holding tank. The Town ordinance supercedes the County. Also, include a friendly reminder of the deadline of July 31, 2004 to come into compliance. Second by Campbell. Unanimously approved. Motion Carried.**
2. LHB, Inc. sent an amended Wastewater System Feasibility Study dated May 2004. Placed on file.
3. W/WWO reports minimal problems with the sewer system. He is working on a Full maintenance plan. He starts the Gen sets monthly, and they have been used maybe once this past year.
4. Bertucci asks if the PUC is being charged for work the road and bridge is doing? Tammaro states he missed the last Board meeting but noticed work done at Differding Point was charged 4 hours to PUC. A letter of complaint had been received from Krohn. Beldo said it was complaint of a drainage problem associated with the sewer project. He is unaware of how they marked there time for it. Beldo told R & B to correct the drainage problem. W/WWO reports the warranty period for the sewer was up 2 years ago. Bertucci thought if it was a warranty problem it should have been taken care of 2 years ago, so it should be a road and bridge problem. Beldo states if it is in the road right of way he agrees. Dickson recalls this issue was brought to the PUC and Town board at which time it was determined to be a preexisting condition. W/WWO was on site and told R & B it was not a sewer problem.
Action -: in the future if they think it is a sewer charge there should be discussion, and approval by the supervisors.

WATER

Nothing to report at this time.

TREASURER

Campbell reported on the financial status (see attached). Campbell reports the PUC only receives funds from the cable franchise fees. The PUC fund has been paying the cable commission fees and litigation fees.

Campbell feels we will need to request funds from the levy for the PUC. We have \$13,000 in the PUC. We need to keep up with our long term plans for the public utilities.

Campbell would like to see our quarterly reports from Gilbert showing where the funds are being used. This is according to our agreement.

Campbell would like to continue to send the employees and commissioners to the training provided by the Minnesota Rural Water Association.

CABLE

Nothing to report at this time.

GAS

Nothing to report at this time.

STREET LIGHTS

Nothing to report at this time.

FYI

A Fayal youngster won a poster contest re: water conservation. He is on the cover of the On Tap magazine.

The next PUC meeting will be held on August 10, 2004 @ 7:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Aultman at 9:08 P.M. second by Damberg. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Stewart
PUC Coordinator/Billing Clerk