

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 2, 2018

Chairman Fridly called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 6:30 pm.
Members present: Mayor Adams, Dan Barber, Scott Fridly, Cory Magnus, Jodi May and Don Self
Staff present: Jean Carlson & Richard Peterson
Absent: Kevin Bunge

Motion by Mrs. May, second by Mr. Magnus to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of March 19, 2018. All ayes. Motion approved 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Parent, resident at 96 Autumnwood Drive, spoke to the Committee in reference to his water/sewer bill. Mr. Parent stated that while he was in Arizona the resin tank on his water softener ruptured and that the water ran straight into his sewer resulting in a large bill (\$5,371). Mr. Parent stated that he paid the bill, but that he is requesting some relief on the sewer portion of the bill. Mrs. May advised Mr. Parent that the Committee will discuss this further. Mayor Adams said that he would waive the sewer portion of his bill, but Mr. Fridly stated that he would agree to waive half of the sewer portion. Mr. Magnus said that the Village isn't responsible for what happened to his water softener and that that water went into the sewer. Ms. Carlson, Water Clerk, stated that she recommends residents shut off their water when they are leaving to go out of town for long periods of time. Mr. Fridly requested that this be tabled and placed on the next agenda for Public Works and Village Board.

Mr. & Mrs. Knighton, residents at 521 W. Franklin Street, spoke to the Committee in reference to a sewer backup that occurred at their residence after a sewer main was struck by Northern Illinois Service while they were digging up water mains in the Village. Mr. & Mrs. Knighton stated that they believe the water main was struck on March 29th while Northern Illinois Service was replacing the water mains in the area. Mr. Knighton stated that he noticed an issue late that evening and that early in the morning on March 30th he noticed the sewer had backed up into his home causing damage to the home. Mr. Knighton stated that he had Brian Elmer, a local plumber, come out to his residence and find out what the problem was. Mr. & Mrs. Knighton spoke with Mr. Barber, Public Works Director, and informed him about the issue. Mr. Barber said that he spoke with Steve from Northern Illinois Service and that they dug up and located where the sewer line was struck and repaired the sewer line. Mr. Barber stated that when he spoke with Steve he was advised that Northern Illinois Service will not pay for the damage because it wasn't properly marked by the Village where they were digging. Mr. Barber stated that it's not the Village's responsibility to mark the property per Village ordinance. Mr. Fridly stated that he would like to know if the repairs were made to the Village's satisfaction and if they weren't that Northern Illinois Service will have to dig it up and repair it. Mr. Barber stated that he will speak with Bruce Werrbach from the Public Works Department to see if he was happy with the repair work since he was there when Northern Illinois Service repaired it. Mr. Barber stated that this is damage done by Northern Illinois Service and they should have to remedy the situation with the homeowner. Mrs. May agreed that someone needs to speak with Northern Illinois Service and have a strongly worded conversation with them on behalf of our residents and taxpayers.

Marnie McAvoy, owner of 108 E. Franklin Street (4 family unit), spoke to the Committee in reference to her water bills and would like relief on the last two water bills. Ms. McAvoy stated that she believes there is a problem with her outside meter not working properly and that the readings were confusing to her. Ms. Carlson stated that some of the reads on the meter were head reads and some were not, but that she has a new meter and new reader on now. Ms. McAvoy provided photos of her readings and stated that the meter readings today are similar to readings from 2014. Mr. Fridly asked Ms. Carlson if there was a final read on the meter and Ms. Carlson provided the information to the Committee. Richard Peterson, Public Works employee, stated that he wasn't sure if the meter had been replaced, but that the reading on the meter head could have flipped over and that is why her reading is what it is. Mr. Fridly stated that the Committee will discuss this and Ms. Carlson will be in touch with Ms. McAvoy. The Committee advised that Ms. McAvoy should pay her bill for the last two quarters and look at the next bill and see where it's at.

VILLAGE ENGINEER – KEVIN BUNGE

Village Engineer Kevin Bunge was absent. A copy of his report is on file with the Village Clerk's office. Mr. Barber stated that he has a meeting with the Village Engineer in reference to the water projects (water tower) because he has questions in reference to the project.

MAYOR - DALE ADAMS

None.

WATER, SEWER, & GARBAGE – SCOTT FRIDLID

Mr. Fridly stated that there is a total of \$1,258.89 in uncollectable water bills from six accounts that he would like written off at the Village Board meeting on April 3, 2018. Mr. Fridly stated that it would cost more to go after the title company to try and collect the money that is due. Mr. Fridly stated that Ms. Carlson can contact NTL Title Company and make sure they are aware that they need to notify the Village when they are closing on a property. The Committee was okay with this.

Motion by Mr. Fridly to approve monthly billing informational mailers not to exceed \$999, second by Mr. Magnus. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 3-0.

Mr. Fridly stated that the purchase order for Civic Systems for onsite training for utility billing in the amount of \$1,200 is up for approval at the Village Board meeting on April 3, 2018. The Committee was okay with this.

Mr. Fridly said that Ordinance 2018-12: An Ordinance of the Village of Rockton Authorizing the Village to Enter into a Master Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement for a Vactor Truck is up for approval at the Village Board meeting on April 3, 2018. Mr. Barber stated that this is just a formality to approve the agreement so that the funds can be released and that Atty. Szeto reviewed the agreement. The Committee was okay with this.

STREETS AND WALKS – CORY MAGNUS

Mr. Barber advised that the state took away a handicap parking spot in front of the library and that they will not replace it. Mr. Barber said that the head librarian had called him from the library because the library had received complaints about the handicap parking spot that was no longer there and were threatened to be sued. The Committee advised that the library needs to talk to the state in reference to their complaint. Mayor Adams suggested that the library make a handicap parking spot behind their building if that is acceptable.

Mr. Magnus stated that he was asked to come up with dollar amounts for Rockton Road by the school. Mr. Magnus said that he sat down with Corine Hughes, Village Collector, and went over the numbers with her. Mr. Magnus went over the numbers with the Committee and stated that this project won't start before next budget year, but that the Village needs to make sure that it's allocated for. Mr. Fridly stated that this is the most important road project right now in the Village. Mr. Magnus recommended doing this project while school is not in session.

BUILDINGS AND PARKS – JODI MAY

Mrs. May stated that she is going to skip over the summer intern discussion because she is still hashing it out and that she would like to sit down with Mr. Self and go over a few things. Mrs. May said that this should be discussed at the Administration Committee meeting and that she would like to reserve \$3,000 in the budget for the summer intern.

Mrs. May stated that the special events application for "Art in the Park" which will be held on Sunday, August 19th from 10 am until 4 pm in Settlers Park is up for approval at the Village Board meeting on April 3, 2018. The Committee was okay with this.

PUBLIC WORKS – DAN BARBER

Mr. Barber stated that the new Public Works building is almost done. Mr. Barber advised the Committee that while cleaning out the old building that they came across old gas tanks that they don't need because the Village bought new ones. Mr. Barber said that the gentleman that sold the Village the new gas tanks would be interested in purchasing the old ones, but that the Village needs to declare the old tanks as surplus property. Mr. Barber stated that he will talk to Atty. Szeto to see what needs to be done.

Mr. Barber said that the Committee wanted to wait and see what happens for the first few months after they switch from quarterly to monthly billing before they consider hiring a part-time Water Clerk Assistant. Ms. Carlson, Water Clerk, asked who is going to help her get the monthly bills ready because she cannot do it all by herself. Mr. Barber said that he will have someone from Public Works come in and help Ms. Carlson for the first few months until they can figure out exactly what they need.

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR – DON SELF

Mr. Self provided the Committee with his "wish list" for the budget.

Mr. Self advised the Committee that Bruce Samlan soccer will be using the athletic fields for games starting in the Fall. Mr. Self stated that he would like to implement fees (\$5 per child) in the future to have as a revenue source to put back into the athletic complex.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS ALLOWED BY LAW

Mr. Barber stated that he is under budget at the new Public Works building and that he should have enough money to construct a 25' x 40' cold storage building if the Committee would like him to look into it further. Mr. Barber said that if he had the cold storage building he could move everything out of the old Public Works building. Mr. Fridly advised Mr. Barber to bring it back to the Committee at a later date.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Magnus, second by Mrs. May to adjourn at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Stewart
Village Clerk