

MINUTES OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
July 12, 2012

The July 12, 2012 Utilities Committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Spencer at 6:08 P.M. Present were Fred Berry, Frank Seman, Jack Ferguson, Amy Michael, Bruce Ribelin and Fran Ricciardi. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Bica; Finance Director, Kim Cecora; Utility Billing Supervisor, Mike Reynolds; Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, Bill Bregant and Nick Dudek of 328 North Prospect Street, Ravenna.

Ms. Spencer said the first item on the agenda is the ammonia meter and the photospectrometer.

Mr. Bregant said the photospectrometer can run tests on phosphorous, ammonia and possibly copper. The ones they have are from 1991 and 1988. Now they send the copper out. It will save money. The old chemist did a phosphorous every Thursday for about six hours. This equipment will enable the new chemist to do it in about four hours for the whole month. The cost is \$4,5335.00 total.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Ms. Spencer said the next item is the plant supplies line.

Mr. Bregant said that the line item is pretty low. He thinks he needs roughly \$5,000.00 so he doesn't have to come back again later this year. They got hit with some unexpected expenses this year. It cost about \$1,200.00 to hire a chemist; about \$1,500.00 in NPDES permit fees for the EPA that wasn't budgeted; about \$1,000.00 in paint for the new maintenance garage that wasn't budgeted and about \$200.00 in signs for the new permit.

Ms. Spencer asked if \$5,000.00 is enough to get them to the end of the year.

Mr. Bregant said responded in the affirmative stating he doesn't think he need that much but he wants to be sure.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Ms. Spencer said the next item is a pump for the Chestnut Street lift station.

Mr. Bregant explained that a pump needs to be installed at the Chestnut Street lift station. It was bought about a year ago. It's going to cost about \$7,700.00 to install it. There is \$7,200.00 in the lift stations line now. He would say about \$800.00 would cover it. He got an email from Bob Rummel saying there was going to be some electrical work done but that there were some purchase orders made up of about \$1,000.00 for each department. He thinks that will cover the electrical so he shouldn't need any more.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

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Ms. Spencer said the next item for discussion is the tax assessment.

Mr. Reynolds said they were provided a list for the tax assessments for liens on the properties with outstanding utility bills. They are sending out re-billings, to get people to pay before they are assessed. This is a very rough list. It will be edited quite a bit before they get to the final version. It has to be to the county auditor by September. That's why they are here today. An ordinance is needed to put them on the tax lien this year.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Ms. Spencer said that the next item for discussion is a base for the safety hoist at the water and wastewater plants.

Mr. Stephens said there is an existing hoist. He would like to purchase a base for that hoist for both of the plants. There are at least five places at the water plant alone that you can't put that long of a base in there. The round base mounts to concrete so you can safely access confined spaces. When they go down into a confined space, a person wears the harness and the hoist is attached to the back so if they start to climb down and something happens, this catches them so they don't fall. They already has the hoist but the big bottom base they have now, they just can't put into some places. They've never had an accident and haven't used the lift in some of these places before. He thinks it is an added safety measure. The wastewater plant needs it, too, so they are looking for an appropriation from both water and wastewater. It would be about \$582.50 each. He needs five at the water plant and he thinks five are needed at the wastewater plant.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Ms. Spencer said the next item for discussion is the sludge hauling at the water plant.

Mr. Stephens said they currently have a contract which is up in December. The Service Director has already talked to Frank Cimino about breaking the contract. He would like to run a test with Emerald Environmental. They take the sludge, lime it for farmers. It's a re-use. Mr. Cimino said that since it's a re-use and not a landfill like they are currently doing, he felt they could run a test to see how it works. They are just looking to authorize the mayor to enter into a contract with Emerald Environmental. There is a cost savings in addition to this being environmentally friendly. Currently they pay \$56.00 a ton and with Emerald they will be paying \$45.00 per ton.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

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Mr. Stephens said there was an issue he would like to raise. In trying to do something environmentally friendly with the waste from the plant, they put together a committee and strive toward being sustainable. There are already some things they have already done with the economic development, the storm water and, of course, the Honeywell project which is saving them a lot of power. He just wanted to bring that to their attention. They were thinking about making a brochure and put it on the City website. There are a lot of things they have already done so they have a lot of that information already.

Ms. Michael said she thinks it is important to show the residents the things they don't know about what they are doing to save money. She thinks it is a great idea.

Mr. Dudek asked for a further explanation from Mr. Stephens.

Mr. Stephens explained that it's a sustainability report that the city is trying to do to be environmentally friendly. Some things are cost effective to do. There are a lot of things they already do, like recycling, etc.

Ms. Michael said that by doing that, it also enables them to go after different grants.

Ms. Spencer said it's a great opportunity to educate the public even more on things that are going on.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Sharon Spencer, Chairperson
Utilities Committee