

**CITY OF PITTSVILLE  
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman John Becker.  
Members present: Deana Becker, Duane Tritz, and Dave Soderberg  
Also present: Paul Veldman, Utility Director

Motion by Duane T., seconded by Deana B., to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2017 meeting.  
Motion carried.

Jerry Jensen and Mike Voss arrived at the meeting.

Mike Voss asked Paul how he's coming along with the phosphorus optimization. He answered that Hawkins is coming to do some testing and walking through what we will need, so he should be able to begin within a couple weeks. Estimates are about \$1800-\$2000 for the pump; and ferric is \$2.70/gallon and alum is \$2.60/gallon. The chemistry of the wastewater will determine if alum or ferric is better and Hawkins will test for that. Even though ferric costs more, less would be used.

Dale Nichols arrived at the meeting. Mike Voss stated we need to get going on the Year 3 Phosphorus Optimization Plan and will bring an agreement with him to the meeting next month. It is due at the end of the year. Questions were raised about changes being made by the EPA, but Mike said the plan is still due and they need to work on it. The fact of a phosphorus limit will not go away but timeframes, etc., could possibly change. He feels this 3<sup>rd</sup> year plan should cost \$13,500. He believes the most cost-effective means for us will be the multi-discharger variance.

There was much discussion held on a possible sewer rate increase. Due to such factors as loss of revenue, future phosphorus compliance and equipment replacement, a sewer rate increase has become necessary. There was about a 30% deficit in revenue from last year. It was necessary this month to transfer from sewer savings into the checking to ensure covering expenses. The core issue is that we are not generating enough income to cover expenses. There are many municipalities that are raising utility rates, some quite substantially. The Mayor believes this type of increase should be over a period of time and not all at once. More discussion followed. It was the consensus of the commission to look at a 15% increase on the minimum charge and a 10% increase on the sewer usage rate. The current 5/8<sup>th</sup> minimum charge is \$31.50/qtr and the increase would make it \$36.23/qtr; the current sewer rate is \$5.14/thousand gallons and the increase would make it \$5.65/thousand gallons. Sue will look at what these numbers would generate and bring the information to the next meeting. This rate increase would take effect for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2017. The increase would be for all customer classifications and all minimum charges. A letter will be generated explaining the need for the increase. This issue will be revisited in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2018.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the commission to table the issue of a vehicle inspection log. The Personnel Committee would need to look into this for employee accountability if they would choose to do so.

The well at the old root beer stand has been abandoned and the bill has been paid. There is a wellhead protection fund in the City budget. Paul believes this type of occurrence is just what that wellhead protection is for. Motion by Duane T. that the City reimburse the Water/Sewer Commission from the wellhead protection fund in the amount of \$1200. Second by Jerry J. Motion carried.

Contingent upon all criteria being met, motion by Jerry J. to approve the private well permit for Chris Miller. Second by Deana B. Motion carried.

The attached operational and quarterly pumpage reports were presented and discussed. Paul had estimates to repair the damage to the pickup. Motion by Jerry J. to get the pickup fixed by Cary Valley Auto at an amount not to exceed \$700.00. Second by Dave S. Motion carried. The repairs at the lift station from the lightning strike were made and paid for with the insurance company reimbursing us less the \$1,000 deductible. Paul will be working more on the phosphorus treatment and should have more numbers by next month's meeting.

Motion by Jerry J. to approve water vouchers #10037-#10049 and sewer vouchers #6467-6478. Second by Deana B. Motion carried.

Motion by Jerry J. to adjourn. Second by Deana B. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Sue Shute/Deputy Clerk/Treasurer