

**CITY OF PITTSVILLE
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman John Becker.

Members present: Dave Soderberg, Deana Becker, and Jerry Jensen. Duane Tritz was absent.
Also present: Paul Veldman, Utility Director; Dale Nichols, Mayor, Jake Hahn, Mike Voss, MSA, Bill Urban, Sue Shute, Wally Shute, Michael Melvin and Bonnie Cullen.

Motion by Jensen to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2017 meeting. Second by Deana Becker.
Motion carried.

Michael Melvin was present to discuss his high 3rd quarter water/sewer bill. He asked for an adjustment, however could not tell the commission why it was high. Jake Hahn had taken a reading profile from the water meter and it showed high usage from July 2nd to July 12th. Mr. Melvin was unable to explain it. The difference between the 3rd Qtr 2016 and the 3rd Qtr 2017 is \$219.48. Motion by Jensen, seconded by Soderberg to adjust the sewer portion of his bill by \$219.48. Mayor Nichols suggested the water meter be tested. Jake was asked to arrange with Mr. Melvin to have the meter replaced and then tested. Motion carried.

Bill Urban was present to review and discuss the letters he received from the commission regarding the televising of his lateral and asking him to repair/replace that sewer lateral at 8217 Jefferson Street. He wanted to know why he wasn't called when the problem was first found. He also questioned why he had to hook up sewer at his rental on Third Avenue when Engelman's on Forest Street has not been hooked up to sewer for 30 years. Bill said that he has contacted four other municipalities and asked them what procedures they use for televising and what is done when problems are found. He said they all told him that they obtain permission before televising is done on private property. He stated the bottom line is that the city should have received property owner permission before televising private laterals and he feels the city was wrong to have done this.

Paul said that private laterals and clear water are addressed in our ordinance. Paul also stated that one of the letters Bill showed was not referencing his property in question and was taken out of context. Chairman Becker asked Bill if he would have given permission if asked and Bill did not answer yes or no. Becker also stated that the commission's main concern is to keep the system viable; that is, to keep sewer pipes from leaking sewage into the ground and keep ground water from seeping in. The commission's goal is to keep the sewer system working properly and when problems are found they should be corrected. Becker asked what Bill's solution would be. Bill feels the solution would be to grandfather he and Bonnie Cullen in and not have to repair the laterals, but to pass it on to the next property owner; or let them get bids from two plumbers and the city cover half of the lowest bid. He said notification should have been done and permission should have been received to televise private property.

Deana Becker said that when the street is dug up is when the notice should be given to the resident and repair should be made at that time, thinking that when the street is dug up they could dig up the yard at the same time. This however would not be done by the same contractor, because the street contractor is hired by the city and is a mechanical contractor and not a licensed plumber which is required for repair to private laterals.

The commission asked to see the video, Jake set it up, and Bill and Bonnie's televised laterals were viewed.

Jensen feels the sewer department made a mistake. Jensen made a motion to pay half Bill Urban's and Bonnie Cullen's lateral repair bill. Discussion followed. Chairman Becker said that this would be setting a precedence and then asked to make the decision in closed session. It was decided this could not be done since it was not on the agenda. Jensen said that there is no doubt that it needs to be fixed and it should not be grandfathered in, but a civil way would be to pay half and to write into our ordinance permission shall be received before the televising is done. He feels a mistake was made and the city should make it right. He said with any new projects the residents will be asked for their permission to televise.

Sue asked Paul if we are under compulsion by the State through the CMOM to televise the sewer when construction is done. Paul said that because it is found that 40% of the I&I infiltrated to the plant is from private laterals, the only time they can be inspected is when road construction is being done. This is the bare minimum we can do to take care of our system rather than do nothing. Sue said that the responsibility of the commission and citizens is to keep the laterals and main as clear as we can. Deana Becker suggested to send a letter to all the property owners on the road projects asking for permission and state that repair shall be made if something is found. Monroe is our next scheduled road repair. Bill Urban stated that he owns a house on Monroe also. He said if we can get past this, he will not come back and ask for half of the repair cost if repair is found to be needed.

The motion remained on the floor. Deanna Becker seconded the motion. Motion carried with Jensen-yes, D. Becker-yes, John Becker-no and Soderberg abstained.

The commission reviewed and discussed the operational report.

Motion by Jensen to approve paying water vouchers #10113-10126 and sewer vouchers #6520-6532. Second by Deana B. Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen to adjourn. Second by Deana Becker. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Tami Hahn
City Clerk/Treasurer