

**CITY OF PITTSVILLE  
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Temporary Chairperson Dave Soderberg.

Members present: Duane Tritz, Deana Becker and Jerry Jensen

Members absent: John Becker

Also present: Paul Veldman, Utility Director; Dale Nichols, Mayor

Motion by Jerry Jensen to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2018 meeting. Second by Deana Becker.  
Motion carried.

Since Mike Voss was not present for an MSA update, the attached request from Lee Friedl for reimbursement of charges he incurred due to a water freeze up at his rental property at 5433 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue was presented for discussion. Motion by Duane Tritz to table this topic until the next month's meeting for more information.

Jerry J. proceeded to explain Lee's request to the Commission. He said the water was froze up on our side of the property line. Lee was told that his lateral was broken, so he hired someone to dig through the ground to check the lateral. There was a question as to the amount of the reimbursement request itself. Jerry suggested taking out the \$504 in lost wages. Paul Veldman stated that since the lateral is not electrically conductive, the utility is under no obligation to thaw the freeze up. To provide the home with temporary water, a hose was run to the neighbor's house. Paul also stated he sent an email to the PSC asking for more information and guidance before this bill would be paid. Paul went on to explain that since the thawing machine could not pass through a point on the property owner's side, it was assumed there was a problem with that plastic line and they were blocked off again. He said it was Lee's decision to dig and that he was not told by Jake or himself to dig. The Mayor questioned if based on the discussions, Lee thought that if the blockage was on his property, he would have been responsible.

Mike Voss arrived at the meeting.

Discussion continued. Jerry was present when the water came through, and the freeze up had been in the street. Jerry again offered to take the wages off the reimbursement, but Duane was not comfortable negotiating without Lee being present. If it is decided the utility is responsible in some way, then the Mayor suggested that the City should do the lawn restoration.

Motion by Jerry Jensen that, if it's agreeable with Lee Friedl, the wages in the amount of \$504 and the \$100 for landscaping be taken off the reimbursement request. However, there was a standing motion by Duane Tritz that had no second. Dave Soderberg seconded the motion to table this topic until the next month's meeting. Call for a vote: Duane T—aye; Jerry J. — no; Dave S. — aye. There was more discussion on plastic pipes and Paul suggested that those residents that have plastic services will go on the trickling list and sign a contract stating if they freeze up, they are responsible for the thawing. Paul said we can't mandate that plastic pipes not be put in as that would go against the plumbing code that allows for plastic. Mike V. said there would need to be an ordinance that specifically states residents to use electrically conductive pipe. A call for Deana's vote on the tabling issue was a "no" which resulted in a tie and the motion did not carry.

Jerry Jensen's motion to remove the wages and landscaping from the reimbursement request was still standing. Deana B. seconded that motion. After more discussion, it was decided to give Lee a call and find out if he would be agreeable to taking \$604 off the request. On the phone, Lee asked for an explanation for the deduction and also asked if anything could be put toward the wages as that was another unexpected expense and would not have occurred if he hadn't been told it was on his side. When he was told it was on his side, he did

what he could as quickly as he could. More discussion was held after Lee hung up. Call for a vote on Jerry Jensen's motion to deduct \$604 from the request: Ayes: Jerry J. and Deana B.; Opposed: Duane T. and Dave S. The result was a tie and the motion did not carry.

Based on the attached request, Duane T. suggested reimbursing Lee not more than \$400 for Mark Darr; \$50 for the helper; \$15.79 for the salt; 0.00 for the wages; \$14.29 for the splice and clamps; \$186.75 for the LP tanks; and 0.00 for truck gas for a total of \$666.83 (with the City restoring the lawn). Jerry phoned Lee with this latest offer. He also told Lee he could come to the next meeting and talk to the Commission himself. Lee then accepted the offer of \$666.83. Motion by Jerry Jensen to offer Lee Friedl \$666.83 as reimbursement for charges incurred for the freeze up at the rental property. Second by Deana B. Motion carried.

Jerry Jensen made the motion to move Mike Voss back on the agenda. Second by Deana B. Motion carried. Mike Voss reported that the third-year phosphorus compliance plan was given to Paul to review and make comments and then sent on to the DNR. The two cheapest options are the multi-discharger variance (mdv) and an economic variance. The other 2 alternatives which are much more costly are water quality trading and actually upgrading the treatment plant to the .075 limit. He said it is unlikely we would be granted the economic variance, which would cost us nothing, as that is handled by the EPA and they are very stringent. It is more likely we will get the multi-discharger variance which requires us to chemically remove some of the phosphorus and to also pay \$51.10/lb (currently) for each pound of phosphorus we discharge over 0.2 mg/l which estimates to about \$13,000/yr in fines. There is still 2018 and 2019 on our current permit before we have to start with this compliance.

The multi-discharger variance is a 10-year variance (2 permit terms). For the 3<sup>rd</sup> permit term we have to upgrade our plant to handle the .075 phosphorus limit. There is a DNR study going on now that could possibly (hopefully) raise that .075 limit that would affect us in that third permit term. Discussion was held regarding a phosphorus trading plan (like Loyal is looking into) where the city would make a plan to work with local farmers. The city would pay the farmers to upgrade their facilities to reduce runoff and then pay them to maintain that as well. Mike V. said the mdv is a much cheaper option. Paul suggested investigating working with the farmers to our west and pumping our effluent to their land and irrigate their crops with it. Mike felt it is still cheaper to go with one of the variances as he said it could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to set up a pumping system, etc., and there are also different requirements for land spreading. Paul said he would just put a force main down the side of the road and sprinkler systems. There is still time to look into this option.

The attached operational and annual pumpage reports were presented and discussed. Motion by Duane T. that any water service that does not have electric conductive material would not be the responsibility of the water and sewer utility to thaw. Discussion continued that the PSC policies regarding electric conductive material is on the Water Thawing and Trickling Policies of the City of Pittsville already. Duane withdrew his motion. At the proper time, Paul or Jake will notify residents with plastic services to start trickling and have them sign the paper that outlines their responsibilities with freeze ups.

There were no other issues relating to the water/sewer department.

Motion by Jerry J. to approve the payment of water vouchers #10163-#10179 and sewer vouchers #6557-#6566. Second by Deana B. Motion carried.

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

Submitted by,

Sue Shute  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer