

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson John Becker.  
Members present: Dave Soderberg, Duane Tritz, Deana Becker and Jerry Jensen  
Also present: Paul Veldman, Utility Director; Dale Nichols, Mayor

Motion by Jerry J. to approve the minutes of the Feb. 14, 2018 meeting. Second by Duane T. Motion carried.

There were no personal appearances or MSA update. Since the ground is still frozen, motion by Jerry J. to move the issue of the sewer laterals at the Bill Urban rental and Bonnie Cullen home to the April agenda. Second by Deana B. Motion carried.

Paul V. explained the attached Sanitary Survey conducted by Glenn Falkowski. There were no significant deficiencies and what few issues were noted are being addressed. Glenn gave advice on how to investigate our water loss issue. He also recommended a simplified water rate increase to keep up with inflation. Paul also explained the attached estimate from Westcch to inspect EP100 and Well 6 in the amount of \$5,618.00.

Based on the recommendations of Glenn Falkowski of the DNR and our auditors, a simplified water rate increase was discussed. Our last water rate increase was in 2013 and was a full rate case. The PSC recommends periodic inflationary increases of 3% to avoid a full rate case and the costs involved with that. The PSC could force us to do a full rate case if it's been a while since we've had an increase and if our rate of return falls below their benchmark of 4.9%. With our previous increase we were approved to have a 1% rate of return, but last year our rate of return was .96%. With this information in mind, motion by Jerry Jensen to implement a 3% simplified water rate increase beginning the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018. Second by Deana Becker. Motion carried.

The attached operational report was presented and discussed. Paul purchased a 1-1/2" meter to replace the frozen meter at the car wash (see attached invoice for \$707.15). City Ordinance Sec. 44-33 was discussed that states the owner is responsible for the cost to repair damage to a meter that becomes frozen (see attached). Motion by Jerry J. to send Ben Grimm, car wash owner, a copy of the bill and a copy of the ordinance for reimbursement of the 1-1/2" meter payable to the City of Pittsville (Water Dept). Second by Duane T. Motion carried.

The attached water pumped and water billed comparison was discussed and noted that while water pumped was basically the same in 2016 and 2017, water billed was down about 2,000,000 gallons. This will be investigated further and put on the agenda for next month with more information forthcoming.

With an interest rate increase at the State, motion by Jerry J. to transfer \$100,000 from the Water checking account to the Water savings account at the State Investment Pool. Second by Deana B. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the issue of customers' frozen laterals and the Best Practices from the PSC that was included with the operational report. Motion by Duane T. to recommend the Council change the ordinance that any new or replacement lateral work be done with electrically conductive/copper material. Second by Jerry J. Motion carried. Plumbers will need to know that the ordinance has been changed since plastic piping is acceptable for plumbers. Paul believes plumbing and electrical permits should be required.

Motion by Deana B. to approve water vouchers #10181-10194 and sewer vouchers #6568-6577. Second by Dave S. Motion carried. Motion by Duane T. to adjourn. Second by Jerry J. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,  
Sue Shute, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer