

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, July 7, 2014.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Bormann at about 7:10 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Magley, Wilkins, Ward, and Lee. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Matt Harline, Phil Hoffman, Mike Forsee, and James Smith.

Comments from Citizens

None.

Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department.

Behrns presented a request from the Electric Department of authorized a Planned Maintenance Agreement for the annual inspection and testing of the City's three backup generators. There is one at the City Hall and one at each of the two sewer lift stations. These are pieces of essential equipment and must always be fully operable. This work has been performed annually by the same vendor, and the price quoted has not changed for several years. The collective price is \$2,113.93. Since this will be over the \$1,250 threshold, and there was ample time for consideration, Behrns brought the matter to the Committee for approval. Ward moved and Magley seconded that the work be performed by Cummins Mid-South for the quoted amount. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Behrns also requested approval for the annual safety and dielectric inspection on the Electric Departments boom trucks. Altec can do the work for \$1,575.00 plus \$99.00 per hour for travel time from St. Joseph (per their published schedule.) Such inspection is an industry standard. Wilkins moved to accept the quote from Altec. Lee seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department.

Forsee told them that the large number of key valve replacements reflected work intended to preempt future emergency calls and limit customer water losses.

Forsee reported on difficulties with the hardened laptop computer used to record the readings from electric and water meters. He felt it was many years old and no longer reliable. Recently, the City had to borrow one with the proper software from Water District #4. We have an absolute need for reliability. Forsee has previously priced out the cost of a true replacement at between \$9,300 to \$13,000. He is recommending a cheaper alternative: a hand-held computer that could perform meter reading, but also be used to program or reprogram meter units in the field during the installation process. With this plan, we would buy a Trimble 3 handheld unit, with proper software and one day of required on-site training from the supplier—Midwest Meter for less than the amount budgeted. The handheld unit would be more flexible and meets our needs. Wilkins moved and Lee seconded that the City purchase the unit from Midwest Meter for a total cost of \$5,250.00. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Street and Sanitation Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Street and Sanitation Department.

Hoffmann specifically noted that a new stormsewer access inlet on the north side of Railroad Street has been constructed. This main previously ran from the alley behind the old laundromat to the middle of the Hubble/Chance parking lot without a break. The new access will facilitate cleaning and inspection for latter rehabilitation work. The inlet has a temporary cover, but Hoffman intends to re-purpose heavy-duty steel sheets left over from the Switzler Street paving project. Hoffman will ask Herndon Welding to piece the sheets together and attach handles. This will make it easy to totally remove when necessary, and otherwise be extra protection from nearby truck parking.

Hoffman reported a failure with the linking chain contributed to heavy damage to the recycling trailer. Herndon could maybe repair the trailer for around \$1,500, but would not have time for several weeks. A similar, new trailer might run as high as \$2,300. Since the trailer was more than 17 years old, committee members favored replacement. Ward moved and Lee seconded that the Street Department seek a new trailer as quickly as possible. Hoffman will seek prices from several venders and buy from the lowest after checking with the City Administrator. Committee suggested contacts with Maxwell, Hughes and Kopp.

Other

Behrns noted he and Mark Mustain attend a meeting in Hannibal with other wholesale customers of what is now Illinois Power Marketing. The customers are seeking to plan for the timing for a new contract and whether there was value to in the cities' share of capacity at the Prairie State power plant. They learned that pricing is in a state of wild fluctuation, with an upward trend. Capacity may be more valuable at a later date, but the cities would then have to absorb additional administrative fees brought about when capacity is separated from energy sales. Capacity value would likely increase at the same time power is becoming more expense—a counter balance. The cities presently in the contract (and perhaps some others) will get together again in the fall when trends lines may have fewer swings and allow for clearer projections. However, the cities won't want to wait until the last minute when the present contract expires in May 2016.

As May Arise

None.

The Committee adjourned at about 7:30 p.m.