

VILLAGE OF LIBERTYVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 9, 2016
7:00 pm
Village Hall

Minutes

Attendance

Committee: Trustee Scott Adams, Trustee Rich Moras
Village Board: Mayor Terry Weppler, Trustee Pete Garrity
Staff: Village Administrator Kevin Bowens, Director of Public Works Paul Kendzior,
Assistant to the Director Laura Ditanto, Police Chief Clint Herdegen
Absent: Trustee Donna Johnson, Finance Director Patrice Sutton
Others: Walt & Angela Trillhaase – 618 Ames Street, Todd Tubek – 15192 W. Rockland Road

Agenda

1. Call to Order at 7:00 pm

2. Minutes of June 14, 2016 Meeting

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Water & Sewer Capital Improvement Projects Updates

a) 911 & 915 W. Park Avenue Watermain Easements:

A settlement price (appraised value less outstanding judgment) has been reached and the Village Attorney has finalized Easement Agreements, including preparing the required exhibits and legal descriptions for the easements. The Agreements have now been forwarded to the property owners, Mr. David Strampel and his wife Karyn, for their signatures. The Agreements will then be included on a future Village Board meeting agenda for approval. The Village Attorney hasn't received the agreement from the Strampels.

b) 2016 Underground Utility Improvements Program:

The contractor, Trine Construction Corp. has completed the project, which included watermain replacement work and service installations on Johnson Avenue, Merrill Court, Wheeler Court, West Ellis Avenue, East Ellis Avenue and Fourth Avenue at Paddock Lane.

The Village replaced 17 lead services from the b-box to the watermain. The Mayor asked staff to collect a water sample when changing out the service. This can be used as an incentive for residents to change out their lead water pipes. Second, the Village could make loans to residents to assist with the cost of changing out lead water pipes and payoff the loan on their water & sewer bill. The Board and staff will need to discuss criteria for loans and set the cost for financing.

c) 2017 Underground Utility Improvements Program:

Our consultant, Gewalt-Hamilton Assoc., Inc. (GHA) continues work on the water main design plans. The 2017 water main project will consist of 3 roadway segments: US Route 45 (South of

Peterson Road) - 1,000 feet of 12-inch water main; Arbor Court – 500 feet of 8-inch water main and Cleveland Avenue – 550 feet of 8-inch water main.

GHA has received the topographic survey information for all three segments and have reduced this information into plan base sheets for initial design. Over the next 6 weeks, GHA expects to have an initial water main routing completed for all 3 streets and then plans to meet with the Village to discuss. The final design will be completed in September and October and GHA anticipates releasing the plans for permit review in November. Plans are expected to be released for bidding in December with bids being received in January of 2017. Construction could start once the weather breaks in late March of 2017.

4. Local Government Compliance Adjustment to Pass Along ComEd’s Cost to Televis Village Utilities and Private Service Lines for “Trenchless” Installation Projects

Staff is following up on discussions from the March meeting of the revised Franchise Utility Permit Requirements to further require post-construction closed circuit televising of sanitary and storm sewer mains (including services) for “trenchless” (directional drilling) projects, ComEd has indicated that they will adhere to this requirement if the costs to do so can be passed on to their customer base in the Village. Staff estimates that it will cost approximately \$25,000 annually to have ComEd televise conflicting existing underground utilities. With an approximate ComEd customer base in the Village of 7,500, the approximate monthly cost per customer, which would be spread evenly across the entire customer base, would be around \$0.28. Staff is proposing to move forward with this program to eliminate damage to conflicting existing underground utilities in the right-of-way.

The other Utility Company performing directionally drilling operations in the Village, North Shore Gas, has previously agreed to and is complying with the closed circuit televising requirement. North Shore gas provides the Village with tapes and a report.

Staff provided the Committee with a copy of the ComEd Local Government Compliance (LGC) Adjustment Rider. There have been a few directionally drilling projects so far, but we have already had instances where a ComEd utility installation has caused damage with an existing Village or private utility in the right-of-way, which has resulted in sewer back-ups.

Per a NWMC survey, of the 25 communities surveyed, two require ComEd to televise for directional drilling projects. Two other communities require exploratory excavation, in which the Village already requires and ComEd is complying with.

The Committee decided to hold off on passing this Ordinance and continue to have ComEd cover the cost of the televising.

5. Water & Sewer Bill Appeals

Last week Staff reviewed water & sewer bill appeals from previous years that were similar to those being discussed tonight. In both cases, the Village staff checked the home for leaks and had exhausted all alternatives as to the cause of the high water usage. The homeowners were required to pay the water & sewer bill, but were put on a payment plan with the Finance Department to pay off the charges.

618 Ames Street

Walter and Angela Trillhaase, the former owners of the Property, received a water bill of 72 units for \$827.73. The billing period was from March 2, 2016 to May 3, 2016. The average bill over the last six months was just under six units. The former owner was not living in the home at the time of the high water bill and it was on the real estate market to be sold. Trillhaase has requested that the Village reduce the amount of the bill.

Staff will contact the new homeowner and have the meter tested. The \$50.00 meter testing fee will be waived. Once it has been determined if the meter is accurate or inaccurate, the Committee will then make a final determination.

15192 W. Rockland Road

Todd Tubek, the homeowner, received a water bill of 79 units for \$841.86, which was the April 28, 2016 bill. The billing period was from February 1, 2016 to April 1, 2016. The meter reading after the high bill reading was 11 units when read on 6/3/16. The homeowner requested that Public Works come out to check for leaks and found no leaks. A new meter was installed in October 2015. There is a pool at the residence but is not in use. Staff will contact the homeowner to schedule to have the meter tested. The \$50.00 meter testing fee will be waived. Once it has been determined if the meter is accurate or inaccurate, the Committee will then make a final determination.

617 Hampton Terrace

Jason Newman, the former owner of the home, received a water bill for 52 units for \$619.93. The house has been on the market and was vacant for six months. The new homeowners moved in on July 13, 2016. The former owner did not have the meter tested so as not to cause disruption to the new owners. Public Works went to the home on June 2, 2016 to check for leaks and found no leaks.

Staff will contact the new homeowner and have the meter tested. The \$50.00 meter testing fee will be waived. Once it has been determined if the meter is accurate or inaccurate, the Committee will then make a final determination.

6. NWMC Lead Water Service Survey

Staff provided a survey from the Northwest Municipal Conference of neighboring communities regarding the number of lead services and if financial assistance is provided for replacement with copper. The Village has approximately 350 lead services in the right-of-way (which is about the average) and does waive connection fees up to 1-inch for service replacements. Only two of the 20 communities surveyed currently provide some form of financial assistance, although many are contemplating changing this. Grayslake and Evanston provided financial assistance.

7. Adjournment at 7:52 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Ditanto, Assistant to the Director