

The Regular Utility Board Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Thomas Schmitt at 7:24 p.m., in the Schererville Town Hall, 10 E. Joliet Street Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: Caleb S. Johnson, Kevin Connelly, Robin Arvanitis, Rob Guetzloff and Thomas Schmitt. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Deputy Police Chief Jeffrey Cook, Park Superintendent John Novacich, Town Engineer Neil Simstad, Director of Public Works Jeff Huet, Director of Operations James Gorman, Town Manager Robert Volkmann, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Troxell and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2021 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #94676 - APV #95024 on the Wastewater Docket, Totaling \$779,654.83
- B. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, January Credit Card Charges, \$8,425.52
- C. Various Funds, Enterprise Fleet, Monthly Lease, \$3,346.64
- D. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, January Legal, \$17,897.17
- E. Sew. Wks. Rev. Bond, Ser. 2019 Fund, Huntington Bank, Principal & Interest Due, \$363,300.00
- F. Sew. Wks. Rev. Bond, Ser. 2020, Wells Fargo Bank, Principal & Interest Due, \$277,700.00
- G. Sew. Wks. Rev. Bond, Ser. 2016, Huntington Bank, Principal & Interest Due, \$415,193.75

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Mr. Troxell gave a brief report on some activities in the Clerk's office. He stated that year was a challenging year with utility billing and a lot of people having a challenge to make their payments. He stated that our staff in the billing department has done a very good job, one person particularly had a personal goal of reducing some of our delinquent letters that we send out. He stated that she started back in 2013, Chrissy Rush, and back then they were averaging about 734 delinquent letters every month. At one point they reached 877 delinquent letters that they were sending out. Due to our diligence and being consistent with our shut-offs and enforcing our Ordinance in place, recently Chrissy Rush reached a personal goal of only 382 delinquent letters that had to go out.

Mr. Troxell stated that they have also put together a payment program and currently we have nine people on a payment plan. He stated that the payment plan under normal conditions are for three months and we have extended that to six months during the COVID period.

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Report Presentation on Water and Sewer Utility Rate
(Red Sommer, London Witte Group)

Mr. Sommer distributed packets of his presentation to the Board members. Mr. Sommer stated that they were engaged to take a look at Schererville's water and sewer rates. Mr. Sommer stated that there is something called a Full Cost of Service Study, that should be done occasionally on water and sewer rates to determine whether or not the cost are being allocated to the appropriate classes. Mr. Sommer stated that Schererville's current rate for a

sewer bill for a 3/4" customer for 5,000 gallons is \$20.81, for 10,000 gallons it is \$36.01. He stated that after they were through with their analysis, they are suggesting that the current rate for 5,000 of \$20.81 goes up to \$30.28. He said that is slightly less than a 50% increase; for someone using 10,000 gallons it would go up to \$54.98. Mr. Sommer stated that Schererville has grown into a community that has far more residential customers than anything else. He stated that when this was last done in 1985 there was not as many residential customers that there are now.

Mr. Sommer then talked about the cash receipts and disbursements. He stated that the net cash flow is \$895,000.00 to the negative. Mr. Sommer stated that what they needed to do was to go back and figure out how much St. John should be paying. He explained the study he had to do regarding St. John.

Mr. Sommer gave a lengthy presentation on the Water and Sewer Utility Rate Study and how they got to their recommendation regarding a sewer rate increase.

Mr. Schmitt thanked Mr. Sommer for his presentation. Mr. Volkmann stated that he will work with Mr. Sommer for summarizing this into a recommendation.

THEREUPON, Business from the floor NONE

Meeting adjourned.

THOMAS SCHMITT
UTILITY BOARD PRESIDENT

MICHAEL A TROXELL, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY