

The Regular Utility Board Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Thomas Schmitt at 7:14 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, Robin Arvanitis, Rob Guetzloff, Kevin Connelly and Thomas Schmitt. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Park Superintendent John Novacich, Director of Public Works Andy Hansen, Director of Operations James Gorman, Town Manager Robert Volkmann, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Troxell and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2022 Public meeting, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #102591 - APV #103045 on the Redevelopment Commission Docket, Totaling \$82,753.11
- B. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$16,582.96
- C. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, May Legal, \$13,303.73
- D. Kennedy TIF Dist. Debt Svc. + Operating Fund, Regions Bank, Interest Due, \$97,694.48
- E. Various Funds, Regions Bank/Wells Fargo, Interest Due, \$48,768.75
- F. Kennedy TIF Dist. Debt Svc. + Operating Fund, JP Morgan Chase, Interest Due, \$19,105.45

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 Sanitary Sewer Rates

Mr. Volkmann stated that we have been studying our Utility Rates since late last year. He stated considering our Water Rates, our Water Rates are in pretty good condition, since we have retired all debt on our Water Utility. He stated that currently there is no need to raise the rates on the Water side.

Mr. Volkmann stated that on the Sewer side, it's a little bit of a different story. Mr. Volkmann gave a slide presentation to the Board as to where we've been and where we are at today. Mr. Volkmann stated that in 1994 we adopted Ordinance #1271, which actually created a slight reduction in the sewer rates, and those rates stayed in place until 2009. Mr. Volkmann stated that the long term trends in Water/Wastewater pricing are increasing faster than consumer prices. He stated that from 2006 to 2015 the water/wastewater cost has gone up by 5.69% per year, while the consumer price index has only rose 1.9%.

Mr. Volkmann stated that they have put together three options:

- 1) The 4,000 gallon user, they took the current rate of \$17.41 and the increase would be \$6.10, which would take that to \$23.51 rate and then over a five year period of the rate it would increase by 3% a year until the total rate would be \$26.46, which would be a \$9.05 increase in the rate.
- 2) The 4,000 gallon user, they took the current rate of \$17.41 and raise the rate by \$4.00 to \$21.41 and then 3% a year through the five year term.
- 3) Do it all at once, it would take the rate from \$17.41, raise it by \$8.54, to a total of \$25.95

Mr. Volkmann stated that the reason for these rate increases are, operational cost has gone up since 2009, and the sewer utility is no longer operating in the black.

Mr. Volkmann stated that they still have some Capital Improvements for this plant, in 2020 those were estimated at approximately six million dollars and it is anticipated those would be higher due to construction inflation that is hitting the market right now.

Mr. Volkmann stated that the staff recommendation for the Wastewater Utility to meet its current needs of operational cost, it would be to adopt option 2 as a new rate consideration.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Volkmann if we know what the six million dollars looks like today if we tried to perform that construction in 2022-2023. Mr. Volkmann stated he doesn't know if they would do it all in one year. He stated that, what they call the sludge drying building, a building that is approximately 100' x 300', it was built fifty years ago, a metal building, the atmosphere inside there being very damp as a lot of that building, structurally needs to be replaced. Mr. Volkmann stated that four to five years ago that was estimated to be 1.5 million dollars, he is anticipating it would be three million dollars today.

Mr. Volkmann advised the Board, if they are prepared to move forward, it would be to authorize staff to prepare the rate ordinances for your consideration at a future meeting.

Mr. Johnson stated that he would like to have more information. He stated that he would like to sit down with Mr. Volkmann and Mr. Gorman before the next meeting to get some more information.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to have Mr. Volkmann, along with Mr. Troxell, to prepare all three options, so that can be presented to the Board and the public, seconded by Mr. Connelly. Motion carries (4-1) Mr. Johnson voting no.

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Resolution #2022-09, A Resolution to Transfer Funds Within a category of Appropriations.

Mr. Troxell explained the Transfer of Funds. Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to adopt Resolution #2022-09, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor NONE

Meeting adjourned.

THOMAS SCHMITT
UTILITY BOARD PRESIDENT

MICHAEL A TROXELL, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY