

The Regular Waterworks Board Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Robin Arvanitis at 7:05 p.m., in the Schererville Town Hall, 10 E. Joliet Street Schererville, IN.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: Thomas Schmitt, Kevin Connelly and Robin Arvanitis. Councilmen Rob Guetzloff and Caleb S. Johnson. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Deputy Police Chief Steve McNamara, Park Superintendent John Novacich, Public Works Director 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. Connelly made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2021 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (3-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #97621 - APV #98141 on the Water Docket, Totaling \$1,450,362.45
- B. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, July Credit Card Charges, \$10,330.65
- C. Various Funds, Enterprise Fleet, Monthly Lease, \$3,346.64
- D. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, July Legal, \$14,511.59
- E. Water O&M Fund, LWG CPAs, Invoice #34821, \$850.00
- F. Various Funds, LWG CPAs, Invoice #34820, \$500.00
- G. Various Funds, Great Lakes Landscaping, July-Town Mowing, \$5,225.00
- H. Various Funds, Napa, July Parts, \$149.12
- I. Various Funds, Braman Insurance, Various Invoices, \$156,464.00
- J. Various Funds, Gatlin Plumbing, Water Main Replacement, \$117,000.00
- K. Various Funds, Lithographic Communications, Invoice #154351, \$1,855.00

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (3-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. The Waterworks Board has Reviewed Town Council Proposed Ord. #1971, Being: "An Ordinance of the Town Of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Concerning Removal of the Town of Schererville Municipal Waterworks Utility from the Jurisdiction of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, and all Matters Related Thereto".

Mr. Volkmann stated that the Town of Schererville has been members of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission for several years. He stated that recently, a lot of Public Utilities are no longer members, they have withdrawn from the Commission due to the high cost of doing petitions. Mr. Volkmann stated that the Town of Schererville Council members and previous Council members have always been good stewards of our Water Utility. He stated that we have not had a water rate increase since 1993 for the Town of Schererville Utility. Every increase we have had since 1993 was because of the wholesale rate increase by Indiana American Water. Mr. Volkmann stated that when that happens, we do a pass through rate and every one of those filings can cost us tens of thousands of dollars, which we then have to incorporate it into our rate to recover those costs from our rate payers. Mr. Volkmann stated that most utilities that are publically held have withdrawn from the IURC because of the high cost of petitioning them.

Mr. Volkmann stated that this is the beginning of the process of withdrawing. He stated it will require us to have two Public Hearings, scheduled for September 22, 2021 and September 29, 2021 at 6:00 pm. He stated that the Public Hearings have to be in two different locations, one will be at the Schererville Community Center and one will be held at the Schererville Town Hall. Mr. Volkmann stated that at those meetings we will take input from the public on their feelings with the withdrawal. If the withdrawal goes through the Town Council would then entertain that in November and it would take effect sixty days after that.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Ordinance #1971, seconded by Mr. Schmitt.

Attorney Austgen explained to the Board that they will not approve the Ordinance, they will be recommending the approval of Ordinance #1971 to the Town Council.

All in favor (3-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor NONE

Meeting adjourned.

ROBIN ARVANITIS
WATERWORKS BOARD PRESIDENT

MICHAEL A TROXELL, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY