

TOWN OF CHESTERTON SERVICE UTILITY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 19, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Board members L. Brandt, A. Michel, S. McCord and J. Schnadenberg, Supt. D. Ryan, Engineer M. O'Dell, Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvare, Council Member Liaison S. Darnell, Attorney C. Parkinson and Secretary D. Schoenfelt. Absent were Member J. Raffin, Attorney C. Nolan and Town Manager B. Doyle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

S. McCord moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting, seconded by A. Michel, approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

S. McCord moved to approve the claims as presented, seconded by J. Schnadenberg, approved by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

Superintendent's Report

Administration

1. I had our camera crew meet me at the residence of Danny Vitoux, 430 N. Calumet, on 9/2 to attempt to address Danny's repeated complaints about sewer backups. You may recall that this has been going on for several years, and he previously filed a tort claim against the Town, which was denied. He recently started making repeated calls for sewer backups to us, and each time our main was flowing fine. To make a long story short, our camera work revealed a large clump of roots penetrating his service lateral about 15' back from the main. We could not get passed them. I showed him this on our video screen and he was very appreciative. I took notice that his house is now up for sale!
2. I am scheduled to give a deposition on 10/23 in regards to the Waterbird Banquet Center lawsuit. As you may recall, on 7-13-15 our McDonald's lift station sustained a lightning strike that disabled our equipment, resulting in a sewage backup at the Waterbird.
3. I have surplus equipment listed on the agenda. These are two Gardner Denver 20-hp rotary screw air compressors that are obsolete in our plant. I would like to eventually advertise for sealed bids and get rid of them, or explore other disposal methods.
4. As you'll recall, we included a payment plan application in the bills that were mailed on 9/17. Apps were due back by 10/2. We received a total of 40 applications. The breakdown is:

- a. Continuing to meet the annual requirements.
 - b. Progress continues on completing the annual SMV report on time.
2. Maintenance Tasks
- a. We cleaned and inspected aeration tank #5 and had to replace several diffusers due to breakage.
 - b. We did a second cleaning on secondary clarifiers #1 and #2 due to the vacuum arm plugging, apparently from midge fly larvae. We will evaluate the potential chemical treatment for midge flies to avoid similar challenges next season.
 - c. We are waiting on an evaluation of our selected turbo blower heater from the vendor.
 - d. We had to replace the batteries in our turbo blower due to failure.
 - e. We replaced the Ethernet switch for the SCADA control system in the centrifuge building due to failure.
 - f. We are waiting on input from another vendor on the replacement screw conveyor for the centrifuge.
3. Pre-Treatment/Lab
- a. Efforts are ongoing to monitor industry effluents and commercial grease traps. We still are working toward the regular frequency of visits since the Covid challenge started.

Engineer's Report – None

Town of Porter Report – None

BOARD REPORT

Chesterton – 49% Porter – 44% Indian Boundary – 52%

OLD BUSINESS

1. L. Brandt explained why Scott Peterson, who had complained about his water bill last meeting, had formerly had such a low bill when living in LaGrange, IL. Tech companies were paying rent on water towers which in turn allowed lower charges for water and sewer.

NEW BUSINESS

1. J. Schnadenberg moved to declare two Gardner-Denver 20hp rotary screw air compressors as surplus equipment, seconded by A. Michel, approved by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS

1. S. McCord expressed how glad he was people are out to vote.
2. A. Michel also expressed the same sentiment noted plant operations are going well.
3. L. Brandt noted 30 million people have already voted early with more absentee ballots than in the past.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Schnadenberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m., seconded by S. McCord, approved by unanimous voice vote.

Lawrence Brandt Chairman

Deb Schoenfelt Secretary