

# TOWN OF CHESTERTON SERVICE UTILITY BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22, 2022

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 J. Raffin and J. Schnadenberg, Supt. D. Ryan, P.A. Liaison K. Nevers, Engineer M. O'Dell, Town Manger D. Cincowski, Town Council Liaison S. Darnell, Attorney C. Parkinson and Secretary D. Schoenfelt. Absent was Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvare.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

S. McCord moved to elect L. Brandt as President, seconded by A. Michel and J. Schnadenberg moved to elect S. McCord as Vice-President, seconded by J. Raffin, both elected by unanimous voice vote.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

S. McCord moved to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021 meeting, seconded by A. Michel, approved by unanimous voice vote.

### APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

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

### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

#### Superintendent's Report

#### Administration

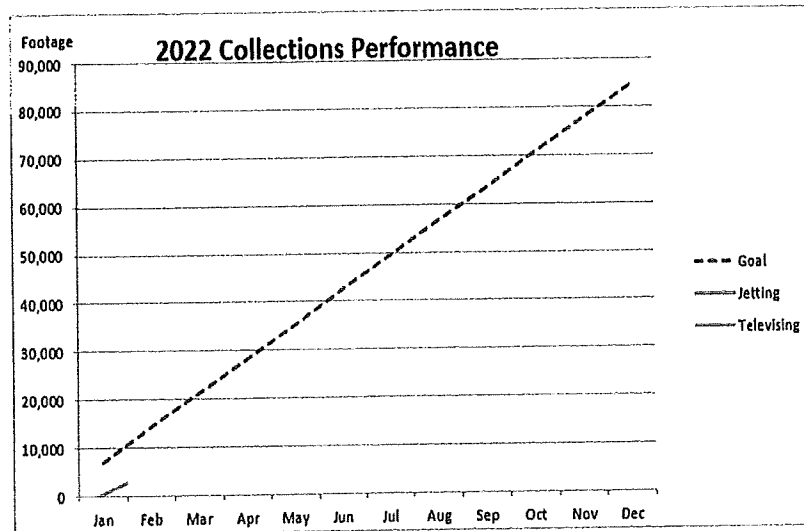
1. As you recall, there was no meeting in January due to a lack of a quorum. Please review the reports that were sent out for that meeting and ask any questions needed. **Action:** The 2022 Budgets were to be recommended for approval at that meeting, so that will need to take place at this meeting.
2. I have filled one of the two vacancies in collections. Joshua Hughes will join our team on Monday February 7<sup>th</sup>. This young man is looking for a stable career and I am encouraged that he will develop to be a valuable member of our team.
3. Kmart/Aldi liftstation: I have not heard any further requests or comments.
4. **Action:** As you may recall, Sam Duley spent over 3.5 years on our team before leaving in July 2021 to explore other opportunities. He returned less than six months later, in January 2022, after realizing that he valued our team most and wants to make a career with the Utility. Prior to bringing Sam back, I asked the clerk's office if I could bridge his longevity

pay and vacation time, and was told yes. Since then, questions have arose concerning that action and also the handling of another employee in a similar situation, and thus, a legal opinion request was submitted by the clerk's office to HWL. The opinion rendered was that eligibility for those benefits require "continuous employment". The exception would have been an approval by the Utility Service Board of a recommendation from both myself and the Town Manager to accelerate his benefits entitlement to his previous level as a condition to bring him back to work. I am asking you to consider reinstating Sam to his previous level of vacation benefits (10-days), but not the longevity pay. I ask this because of the inquiry/confusion after the fact, but realize that a "cost of leaving" could justify the forfeiture of the longevity pay.

5. Imhoff Tank Update: You were all informed of the leaking Imhoff tank on Riverside Dr., just off N. Calumet. On 1/21/22 we took on vac truck load out of the tank but determined it was too dangerous to continue driving the truck back there and decided to return with a new and safer plan. Due to a snow storm and severe cold weather, we had to delay our return until 1/27 and were able to completely empty the tank using our vac trucks and a pump. We noticed the leaking stopped after lowering the level by about four feet, out of and estimated nine feet. We monitored the tank daily since emptying it and noticed it started to leak, but not to the river, on 2/10/22. On 2/11/22, we emptied the tank again. We will monitor daily and empty as needed. We also are aware of the damage we have done to the blacktop drive we are utilizing for access, and will have to address repair to that drive once the weather is right or our need for access is over. I am currently waiting on a quote to provide engineering/design services for a sewer system from DLZ, and am waiting for a response from McMahan for their interest in the same.
6. The rehab of the Pioneer Pt. liftstation was finally started on 1/12/22. It is now operational with one pump only utilizing the float control system, and is awaiting official start-up by GAI. I expect that to be completed very soon.
7. IBCD: You may have heard the IBCD has requested a meeting to discuss their disagreement with our new rate ordinance. Larry and I will be meeting with them on 2/23/22 in C. Parkinson's office.
8. The annual EPA Biosolids report for 2021 was submitted on time.

### **Collections**

1. There were no pump failures this month.
2. We televised 2,475 feet and jetted 0 feet.
3. We completed 124 locates and 3 inspections.
4. The camera crew has been working in the Abercrombie subdivision.
5. The crew partially cleaned out the Imhoff tank on 1/21, and emptied it on 1/27.



## Treatment

1. Streamlined Mercury Minimization/Variance Program
  - a. Continuing to meet the annual requirements.
2. Maintenance Tasks
  - a. Generator #2 Automatic Transfer Switch failed during testing and has since been repaired.
  - b. The centrifuge control circuit power supply failed and has been repaired.
  - c. Digester sludge level control piping clogged and was opened by our plant crew.
  - d. One of the acid pumps used in the phosphorous removal process was evaluated at the manufacturer due to failure. The repair quote was greater than what we were able to find a new pump for, so we have received the new pump as well as some training from the supplier.
  - e. The radiant heater over the centrifuge failed and has since been repaired.
  - f. We have observed higher than normal influent solid levels but have yet to determine the source. We may or may not be able to but will continue to pay close attention.
3. Pre-Treatment/Lab
  - a. Efforts are ongoing to monitor industry effluents and commercial grease traps.
  - b. Work continues on preparing the annual Pre-treatment report due to IDEM by 4/1.

## Engineer's Report

M. O'Dell reported he is working on the lift station design for the Wood subdivision.

**Town of Porter Report – None**

## BOARD REPORT

Chesterton – 48%    Porter – 42%    Indian Boundary – 55%

**OLD BUSINESS – None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. S. McCord moved to approve the 2022 Budget, seconded by a. Michel, approved by unanimous voice vote.
2. D. Ryan reported on an employee that had quit and now was back on the job. He asked the Board about reinstating his vacation time but not the employee's longevity pay.
3. J. Schnadenberg related a similar situation in his department and the employee was awarded his vacation time but not longevity pay.
4. C. Parkinson also added that the employee when quitting had been paid for part of the vacation time earned.
5. J. Schnadenberg moved to give this employee the 31 hours of vacation time he had not been paid for but not longevity pay, seconded by A. Michel, approved by unanimous voice vote.

**COMMENTS**

1. J. Schnadenberg wished S. McCord a happy birthday.
2. S. McCord and L. Brandt spoke about the passing of Bob Poparad and how he had fought for the people of Porter County.

**ADJOURNMENT**

S. McCord moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m., seconded by J. Schnadenberg approved by unanimous voice vote.

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Lawrence Brandt Chairman

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Deb Schoenfelt Secretary