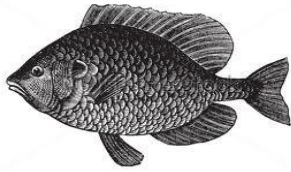


UTILITY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.

Village Office

7505 Main Street West, Webster, WI



www.shutterstock.com - 83736145

VILLAGE OF WEBSTER

-
- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Utility Chairman, Darrell Sears called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
 - II. **PRESENT** –Chairman, Sears; Members, Kelsey Gustafson and Sarah Casady. Others: Public Works Director, Jay Heyer. Absent: Village President, Roberts
 - III. **FIVE YEAR SEWER PERMIT AND POND SLUDGE REMOVAL** – Chairman, Darrell Sears gave the floor to Public Works Director, Jay Heyer. He provided an example of the 5-year sewer permit, from the DNR, that allows the Village to operate the sewer ponds. He explained that ours is very basic and he just received the new one and there were no changes. His department does weekly testing and releases the ponds quarterly. Recommendation from the DNR is for the ponds to be cleaned/dredged every 20-25 years; ours is due. An engineering company is needed to do this cleaning and he has been talking to Gary Strand with Cooper Engineering. The engineering aspect is inexpensive but the cleaning is expensive. Heyer stressed this has to be done within the next few years and he suggests scheduling this to be done next year. We are getting higher levels on the testing; especially PH and ammonia. We need to find out how the village is going to pay for this; he is not aware of any grants available but will check with MSA. He provided an estimate of cleaning 2 of the 3 ponds; which came in at \$312,000, \$5,000 for Engineering fees and \$1,000 for testing. Farmers could use this sludge on their field; the engineers can pump up to 3 miles; from the ponds. Member, Casady asked if high cost is due to not having the ponds cleaned previously. Heyer said no. Member, Gustafson asked what the other option would be if not able to pump to farm field. Heyer explained that the engineering company would then need to haul the sludge away and would cost 7¢ a gallon to haul vs. 3¢ to pump into farmer’s field. So the \$312,000 estimate is based on pumping. Heyer and Chairman, Sears will discuss this with local farmers and provide an update at the June full board meeting. Possible funding will also be discussed at that time. Member, Casady asked if decision made, on these two items, could the removal be done next summer. Heyer stated, if funding obtained, could possible do this fall; which is the preferred time of year. Member, Casady then asked how often this has to be done. Heyer replied at least every 20 years. Member, Gustafson then asked about cleaning the 3rd pond. Heyer stated it would be nice to do all three, at one time, but he estimates an additional \$100,000. Heyer showed members the location of each pond. Discussion ensued on process for testing and effect on sewer ponds with growth within the village.
 - IV. **WATER & SEWER: NEW CLINIC & NEXEN** – Public Works Director, Heyer informed the committee that new water and sewer have been run into the new clinic. He also wanted to make the committee aware that over the past quarter, Nexen has tripled their use of water due to a new system at their plant. They cannot reuse/recycle this water so it is going through our pumps. Due to the location of Nexen, this water is going through several of our pumps so a lot more electricity is also being used. Heyer is anticipating more water/sewer usage with new clinic. He said our system can handle it but may need to add bigger pumps in the future if it increases substantially. He wanted the committee to know that the village cost for electricity and maintenance of the pumps may increase due to higher use.

- V. **NEW FIRE HYDRANTS** - Public Works Director, Heyer said that during the water project 4 years ago, 5 fire hydrants were replaced but approximately 20 fire hydrants are getting old and it is hard to get parts. These will need to be replaced. He suggests replacing 2 a year. The cost is \$3,000-\$4,000 for the hydrants and then the cost of digging up the street and/or curb and sidewalk and the cost of backhoe; totally \$5,000 to \$6,000 per hydrant replacement. He believes the current hydrants are from 1956. He also reported another problem with these current hydrants is they do not have shut off valve so they now have to shut off a whole street when there is a maintenance problem. Heyer, will check with Clerk/Treasurer on budgeting and MSA on possibility of grant. He stated there is a total of 90 hydrants in the Village. Member, Casady asked Heyer is any other upgrades he foresees. Heyer thinks in 5 to 10 years, an additional well may be needed.
- VI. **WATER ASSESSMENT FOR PROPERTY OWNER** – Public Works Director, Heyer has a request from a resident on Apple Street to hook up to Village water. He has been off work for a couple years, due to medical issues. It wouldn't be too much of a cost for the village, as the water service is hooked up to their yard. But, the resident would need to hire someone to dig it up from there to their house. The resident is asking if his cost could be considered a special assessment and added to their taxes or utility bill so he could pay a smaller amount spread over time vs paying for total cost at once. He knows this has been done in the past. Furthermore, the DNR wants the village to get rid of individual wells as it could contaminate our good water. Members, Gustafson doesn't see a problem with this special assessment. Member, Casady agrees with the hook up fee but the digging up would be a 3rd party involved. Member, Gustafson suggested Heyer check with other Villages to see if they have ever done this for a resident. Heyer he will check.
- VII. **GROUP PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT** – Public Works Director, Heyer was approached by the Village of Grantsburg's Public Works Director about the possibility of a group purchase for a water valve saw. The total cost would be \$3,500. The water shut off valves goes down 6 feet and to repair, currently, requires digging up the street, with a back hoe, and replacing the black top. This new saw will allow cutting the water valve from on top vs digging up the blacktop or excavation. The group would consist of the following Villages; Grantsburg, Webster, Siren, Frederic, Luck and maybe St Croix Fall; resulting in a cost of approximately \$500 per Village. The current process costs the Village over \$1,000. So this group purchases would be cost savings. Heyer reported that there are currently 3 to 5 water valves that the Village of Webster could use this saw on right now. Member, Gustafson made a motion to recommend to the full board to participate in a group purchase of the water valve cut off equipment; seconded by Member, Casady. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- VIII. **ADJOURNMENT.** Motion was made by Trustee, Casady to adjourn the Utility Committee Meeting at 7:05 p.m., seconded by Trustee, Gustafson. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell Sears

Darrell Sears, Utility Chairman

May 23, 2018

***These minutes are subject to approval at next month's Regular Meeting.