

## **Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Tuesday, September 8, 2009.**

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Simmons at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Orsini, Hensley, Million, and Bormann. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Mike Forsee, Phil Hoffman, and James Smith.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

### Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department.

Committee discussed the disposition of the old Altec boom truck. When the City ordered the old truck last year, we declined the trade-in offer as being too low. The new truck is here and the old truck has been taken out of service. Mustain said that an independent inspection had valued the truck at between \$4,500 and \$6,000. He has identified an auction company which conducts sales of similar vehicles. The next one available for the City would be in November. Mustain has also been told of a local person interested in buying the truck. After some discussion, staff was instructed to place an advertisement in the newspaper. The City would accept the highest bid over \$4,000. If no such bid is received, we will use the auctioneer. That firm conducts both a live auction and accepts bids via the internet and charges only 5% for the service.

Mustain presented a spread sheet of bids for pole-mount transformers. This is stock, but the bids are effective only a short time. Orsini moved that the City approve the purchase of 9 such transformers from T & R Electric of Coleman, South Dakota for a total price of \$3,035.00. Million seconded the motion. The vote was called. All aldermen present voted aye and the motion carried.

Mustain reported on efforts to pin down the cost of switching to LED street lights. The best he could find was a 100-watt-rated light to replace the present 150-watt, high-pressure sodium lights. The would cost up to \$750 each, compared to the \$75 per light which we pay now. The lights should last for about ten years, against a one-year life per bulb now. The savings for power costs are not nearly enough to justify the change. Committee agreed that the City would wait until the lights were more common and economical.

### Street and Sanitation Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Street and Sanitation Department. Hoffman told Committee that the new truck is now in service. It is almost indistinguishable from the tuck that was dropped to backup status.

Responding to a question, Hoffman said that recycling collection volume is up. In particular, the amount of plastic we receive has doubled and requires much less handling. The company receiving the plastic is quite satisfied with the product. The service will also be promoted in the next newsletter.

Several sections of stormsewer culvert have been installed at the expense of residents. The Street Department is almost caught up. They will start on the Miles Street Ditch pipe soon, so long as the weather (and ground) stays dry.

Hoffman noted that most comments on the overlay are laudatory; most citizens only wish we could do more now, instead of waiting until next year. Orsini was thankful that a lot of pot holes had been filled, but pointed out one on Lakeview which still needed patch.

Hoffmann said that the vender had moved in this day and started on the tub grinding at the brush pit. They will finish tomorrow or the next day at the latest. They are double grinding the material, which will make

for better mulch. The vender has suggested that they know of potential customers for the grindings. In the past the City has had to advertise to get rid the old stockpiles. Committee agreed that the staff could sell the mulch to private companies at whatever the market would bear, provided we retained enough to satisfy the needs of our residents.

### Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department.

Committee members commented on the high number of customers being shut off in the last month. Behrns agreed that this is nearly a record. Forsee noted that many have not been reconnected and likely have skipped town. Behrns assured the Committee that most of the delinquent have not been the elderly, but are actually younger singles and couples.

Forsee said that the sewer replacement project on Lakeview is completed and the street repaved. He found that the television camera was very helpful in identifying a potential problem, which was corrected before the asphalt went down. Overall, he was happy with the quality of the work done. He noted that recent problems with water valves had caused digging elsewhere on Lakeview, creating more wounds in a previously pristine pavement.

Forsee presented a bid tab for a variety of distribution system materials. He was happy to report that a new vender from Harrisonville had entered into the mix, although they were not low bidder this time. Water & Sewer Supply was the lowest vender at \$6,755.00. Forsee said that there was no rush to order and the authorization to purchase could wait for the regular board meeting.

The Water Department has rented a trackhoe for a week to aid in loading lime from the ponds at the water plant and hauling it to Romine's farm. This is a short window of opportunity before Romine must tend to his fields. We should be able to haul almost all the waste lime from the ponds before the end of the week and have empty ponds to start the winter. Hauling had been slowed by the wet weather this summer, and the material was too thick for the pumps to handle. The department is taking steps to deal with some spilling from the trucks, which has coated Howard Burton Drive and created problems for the car wash on Randolph at Highway 22. Forsee expressed gratitude to the Centralia Special Road District for the loan of their trucks and drivers. He expects that more than 300 loads will be hauled by Friday.

Insituform has completed their work slip lining the sewer main on Green Street. The project was done in two days, with little disruption. The line is now like new. Staff has not yet identified prospects for lining next year or for patching (if we choose to budget for a machine to allow us to do short patches in place).

### Other

After extended discussion, Committee felt that agreement with the owner to perform repairs of the Naragansett Building may require allowing him to follow the schedule he proposed. To compress that schedule would likely make it financially impossible for the owner to complete the work with volunteer help. Behrns will consult with City Attorney Beck on how to best assure that the owner is locked into a commitment to that schedule. Committee did not feel that the project was a good candidate for grant aid.

Behrns mentioned that there is yet no news about the grant to deal with demolition of 105 N. Allen.

Bormann said that he would miss the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting next week in order to attend a hearing at the County's office at the Clinic Building concerning the proposed new stormwater control regulations. These standards are not mandated for Centralia yet, but will apply someday,

if the City continues to grow.

Mayor Grenke mentioned receipt of a letter from John Hinton and a report from Great Plain ADA Center. Committee discussed future City actions to comply with the report's suggestions. Most work will be done by staff as weather and work load permits. Mr. Hinton had provided information about potential grants to deal with accessibility gaps.

There were no further items to be presented, and the meeting adjourned at about 8:10 p.m.

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