

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
October 24, 2023**

The meeting of the Public Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Chairman Keith Endy. Present in addition to Mr. Endy were committee members Gene Gabel, Barry Christman, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Councilman Jeffrey Cascino; Lorraine Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; Ralph Schoenly and Alex Eidle, Inframark, LLC; Jason Newhard, SSM, Inc.; and Mike Paleski, Subcarrier Communications, Inc.

Mr. Endy called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 19th, 2023 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Endy, seconded by Mr. Christman, and approved.

Inframark Report – Water and Sewer

Mr. Schoenly reviewed the operator's report for September 2023. The complete report is on file in the administrative office.

Spotts, Stevens & McCoy Report

Mr. Newhard reviewed the engineers' report for October 2023. The complete report is on file in the administrative office.

Regarding the Madison/Rhoads Avenue Sewer Replacement Project Mr. Newhard noted that the project has been re-bid for receipt of bids on November 20th.

Mr. Newhard also advised that he has a meeting scheduled with Inframark personnel to continue work on the Water Treatment Plant Capital Improvement needs.

Unfinished Business – Water and Sewer

Subcarrier Communications, Inc. Cannon Hill Easement – Mr. Paleski, of Subcarrier Communications, Inc. provided a revised plan for a 20' foot electric and fiber optic easement on the Borough owned Cannon Hill Water Tank property to the adjoining property owned by the Church of God. Mr. Paleski's initial compensation offer for the easement was \$2,500.00. Following discussion Mr. Paleski offered \$3,500.00. The committee agreed to recommend Borough Council accept the offer of \$3,500.00 for a 20' foot easement to follow the property line of the Cannon Hill Water Tank property to the Church of God property as depicted on the plan Drawing Number E-1 dated October 16th, 2023. Mrs. Loder will provide Solicitor Hartman with a copy of the plan and compensation offer.

New Business – Water and Sewer

Sewer Rate Increase – Discussion was held on the need for a sewer rate increase in 2024 in order to cover a budget deficit and to allow for additional funds to be put into the Capital Improvement Sewer Fund to provide adequate funding for the 5-Year Capital Plan. Discussion included consideration of a flat rate to replace the current rate structure. Following a somewhat lengthy discussion, the committee directed Mrs. Loder and Mr. Newhard to draft a proposal for a sewer rate increase to be effective the first quarter of 2024.

Public Comment

Mr. Endy called for public comment; no comments were forthcoming.

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. was made by Mr. Endy, second by Mr. Gabel. The next meeting of the Public Utilities Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 21st, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Manager