

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
December 19, 2023**

The meeting of the Public Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:25 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 Council members Charles Neubauer and 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 Tom McHugh.

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Endy, seconded by Mr. Gabel, and approved.

**Inframark Report – Water and Sewer**

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

**Spotts, Stevens & McCoy Report**

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

Mr. Newhard noted that DOLI Construction will be ready to begin work on the Madison/Rhoads Sewer Main Project around the end of January. The Notice to Proceed will be issued following closing on the General Obligation Note of 2024, which will occur in early January.

Mr. Newhard also reported that the Water Authority approved execution of the Watermain Extension Agreement for the Swamp Creek Personal Care Home and Townhomes in Colebrookdale Township. That project is expected to proceed to the construction phase in the spring of 2024. The project consists of a one hundred twenty five personal care home and thirty nine townhomes in the 500 block of Swamp Creek Road.

**Unfinished Business – Water and Sewer**

**Sewer Rate Increase** – Mr. Newhard reviewed with the committee projected sewer rate increase options to generate an additional \$323,800 annually, which is needed to cover an operating budget shortfall of \$90,000, a debt service of \$88,600, and funding for the Capital Improvement Sewer Fund. Following a lengthy discussion, the committee agreed to recommend Council approve a minimum charge of \$70.00, which includes the first 3,000 gallons of consumption; and \$11.67 per thousand for all consumption in excess of 3,000 gallons. The

current rate is \$45.75 minimum charge; and \$11.67 per thousand for all consumption in excess of 3,000 gallons. This increase is projected to generate only \$200,000 in additional annual revenue, which will not allow funding of the Capital Improvement Sewer Fund, but will cover the budget shortfall and the debt service obligation. This will reduce the financial impact on ratepayers in 2024; however, further increases in the sewer rates will be reviewed by Council in 2024 for the 2025 budget.

**New Business – Water and Sewer**

There was no new business to discuss.

**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. Christman. The next meeting of the Public Utilities Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder  
Borough Manager