

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
December 20, 2022**

The meeting of the Public Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:10 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 Charles Neubauer; Lorraine Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Ralph Schoenly and Alex Eidle, Inframark, LLC; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; Jason Newhard, SSM, Inc.; and an interested citizen.

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2022 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 November 2022. The complete report is on file in the administrative office.

Spotts, Stevens & McCoy Report

Mr. Newhard reviewed the engineers report. Mr. Newhard provided the committee with preliminary costs for upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Newhard noted that the list includes operational needs only. Discussion was held on the need to look at needed cosmetic improvements such as replacement of windows, ceiling tiles, and floor tiles. Following a somewhat lengthy discussion, the committee agreed that Mr. Newhard and Inframark should gather preliminary costs for building and cosmetic needs for discussion by the committee.

Mr. Newhard also noted that the grant application for a PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant for improvements to the South Reading Avenue Pump Station was submitted Monday, December 19th.

Regarding the Madison & Rhoads Avenue Sewer Replacement Project, Mr. Newhard stated that the project remains on track to advertise for bids in March.

Unfinished Business – Water and Sewer

A. Pine Road Access Easement – Harlan Snyder - Mr. John McCloskey was in attendance on behalf of Mr. Snyder. Mr. McCloskey reviewed with the committee a draft easement plan, which does not follow the property boundary as requested by the Borough. The draft plan relocates a portion of the access easement around a swampy area of the borough property and then continues along the property boundary. A lengthy discussion was held on the draft plan. Mr. Endy does not favor approval of the plan as presented and noted that you can obtain a permit to build a driveway through wet areas. Mr. Endy feels strongly that granting the easement as proposed is in not in the best interest of the Borough. A majority of the committee agreed with Mr. Endy.

Discussion continued on the subject and the committee reiterated their initial position that the easement should follow the property boundary line. In the alternative the existing fire lane could be used as the access easement with the understanding that the borough could require the relocation of the driveway at any point in the future if the borough's use of the property necessitates a relocation. Mr. McCloskey will convey the committee's position to Mr. Snyder.

New Business – Water and Sewer

There was no new business to discuss.

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. was made by Mr. Endy and seconded by Mr. Gabel. The next meeting of the Public Utilities Committee is scheduled on Tuesday, January 24th, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary