

REGULAR MEETING, MUNICIPAL BOARD
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT Commissioners Blackler, Dolmatch, Hubbard, Moffa, and Roney, Director of Municipal Operations (DMO) Lotkowitz

ABSENT Commissioner Blackwell

OTHERS Cliff Abrams of 37 State Street

MINUTES

On the motion of Comm. Dolmatch, seconded by Comm. Blackler, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2009 meeting as presented.

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM-U/V SYSTEM

DMO Lotkowitz said he didn't have anything new to report. In response to Commissioner Dolmatch, DMO Lotkowitz said he has not yet prepared a schedule; Commissioner Moffa suggested we plan for that at next month's meeting.

AMR STATUS

Comm. Moffa recalled reading an update in the Village Board Minutes of October 12 and suggested that perhaps DMO Lotkowitz could echo that report. DMO Lotkowitz said he updated the project spreadsheet and the overage was reduced and re-projected at \$92,000.00, most of which is the cost of the additional district meters. DMO Lotkowitz reported that more than 600 electric meters have been installed and about 200 water meters. The AMR readings were checked against the manual reads and a "punch list" was created identifying the meters (mostly water meters) where the AMR readings did not tie into the manual readings. Relative to those meters, as Village Clerk Sheehan explained at the Village Board meeting, "we need to accommodate a different dial size and use a leading zero or have a decimal before the last digit or two". DMO Lotkowitz explained that some of the meters can be reprogrammed with a handheld unit to the touch pad. Comm. Blackler asked if we have to get into the houses to fix those meters. DMO Lotkowitz responded that the resetting started today – some are in basements, some are outside, and some of the older meters (i.e. digital reading meters) will have to be replaced as they can't be reprogrammed even though they are reading. Relative to producing a bill, DMO Lotkowitz explained that we can't print an intermediate bill – it has to be after all the readings are in. Comm. Moffa referenced Village Clerk Sheehan's statement of Oct. 12, "we've demonstrated that we can get AMR readings into our billing system and the vast majority of the readings look good". DMO Lotkowitz reported that the district #1 meter has been replaced and 27 letters were mailed to Heritage Woods residents asking that they call the Village Office to schedule a time to have their water meter replaced. He asked Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Couch to send similar letters to residents on Prentiss Drive. Knowing that Comm. Blackwell will want to examine DMO Lotkowitz' financial report, Comm. Moffa said we'll hold off reviewing it until next month's meeting.

TRANSFORMER ENCLOSURE ISSUES

Inasmuch as he had not heard from surveyor David Love, DMO Lotkowitz reported that he phoned him today and learned that the entire firm has been ill. Mr. Love promised to complete his easement work within the next two weeks.

INFRASTRUCTURE DATA BASE PROJECT

DMO Lotkowitz said he didn't have anything new to report as this on going.

ISO-HYDRANT RATING-STATUS FLOW RATES/SAFETY RAMIFICATIONS

Regarding the distribution model provided by C&S Engineers, DMO Lotkowitz said he needs to contact them again because the nodes aren't included. Comm. Moffa said DMO Lotkowitz can update us next month.

STIMULUS BILL-STATUS OF APPLICATIONS

DMO Lotkowitz reported the Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) Grant Program applications have been submitted as follows: 1) WWTP upgrades (new RBC's) (85% State share); 2) West Lake Street Drinking Water Quality (75% State share); and 3) Village-wide I&I Reduction Phase 3 (85% State share). DMO Lotkowitz said most of the Village share would be labor-in-kind.

STATUS OF WILSON & WILSON PROPOSAL

Comm. Moffa said the Village Board has not again (since initially considering it in May) addressed authorizing Wilson & Wilson to update the 2005 report, however, DMO Lotkowitz said that Curt Wilson will be assisting relative to the proposal from the Village to the PSC for a modest increase in the electrical rates. DMO Lotkowitz reported that he, Mayor Green, and Village Clerk/Treasurer Sheehan had a phone conference with the PSC this morning and they are willing to work with us on a mini rate increase; it will be a 5 to 7 month process with a definite procedure to follow. Comm. Dolmatch asked if there is any idea if things will go underground. DMO Lotkowitz answered that he wants to go through all capital issues and make a list (which is required) of items to fold in to the analysis. The mini rate increase can be up to 10%. Comm. Hubbard concluded that the rate has not been determined – “you have to drive this”. DMO Lotkowitz said you have to develop the capital outlay. DMO Lotkowitz and Comm. Dolmatch recognized that the Electric fund had a loss of \$152,000 according to the latest “budget” and in large part that is attributable to AMR. DMO Lotkowitz said the electric reserve is being depleted and without AMR might show a profit. Comm. Dolmatch indicated that he will email DMO Lotkowitz a list of potential projects. Comm. Moffa said we should definitely include what the impact will be when (in most likelihood) the community center comes onto Village electric in a couple of years or so. Comm. Roney stated that he is going to FOIL the Town for the contract between the SRCT and National Grid. Comm. Blackler recalled that the Town was not part of the contract; Comm. Dolmatch said we can get the bills but not the terms of the contract. Comm. Roney said he will FOIL nonetheless.

STATUS OF CMOM DRAFT

DMO Lotkowitz said he didn't have anything new to report, but indicated that this is his next major project.

STATUS OF NYPA SOLAR POWER SYSTEM HOST SITE

DMO Lotkowitz said the letter of intent was submitted but we haven't received any news as of yet.

STATUS OF VERIZON WIRELESS ANTENNA RELOCATION

DMO Lotkowitz reported that Verizon had a number of consultants here looking at the site, including a structural consultant. The Village engaged David Stevenson from Dutch Hill to perform a tank inspection and he estimated that there is \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of work (i.e. painting, etc.). DMO Lotkowitz said there is a process to follow and all has to be folded in with Verizon.

STATUS OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RATING SYSTEM/IDEAS)

Relative to the materials he distributed last month, Comm. Dolmatch said he has not received any feed back from the Municipal Board Members except for Comm. Moffa who commented on A.8. He reminded the board that he'd asked for ideas on policy positions from the Municipal Board. Although this will be the “first whack at the piñata and not the last”, this will be discussed Wednesday, Oct. 21 at the Comprehensive Plan Review Group meeting. Comm. Dolmatch agreed to email the document to the Municipal Board again.

Comm. Hubbard strongly encouraged moving ahead with sizing the UV project regardless of what the Town does. In discussing the matter with Village Attorney Byrne, Comm. Hubbard said he's convinced that there never will be a contract with the Town, but that they will continue to get water from the village. We should put the negotiations behind us; they only give the impression that there is room to negotiate the rate when there is not. Comm. Hubbard said Attorney Byrne thinks we should be consistent with the Village and Town getting rate increases at the same time of year, but not necessarily the same rate. Comm. Dolmatch concluded that the rate would be set annually with no contract, no agreement. DMO Lotkowitz said we do have the methodology now and can defend the rate; he thinks there would be a UV surcharge absorbed into the rate structure. Comm. Hubbard acknowledged that ultimately the Village Board will have to decide what to do.

MUNICIPAL BOARD RESOLUTION #2009-3:

On the motion of Commissioner Moffa, seconded by Commissioner Hubbard, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to support the Village Board treating the Town of Skaneateles as a customer governed by what it costs to deliver water thus determining future water rates according to a formula rather than a contract.

HYDRO ALLOCATION

DMO Lotkowitz said he's been researching how our hydro allocation works. He said NYMPA schedules our hydro allocation based on the prior year's usage and he acquired the Village's 2009 Database spreadsheet, as well as 1) NYPA's Service Tariff No. 39A governing Electric Service Tariff for Partial Requirements Municipal and Rural Electric Cooperative Systems Firm and Peaking Hydroelectric Wholesale Power Service and 2) NYPA's Partial Requirement Scheduling and Dispatch Procedures When ISO is Operational (procedures subject to the terms and conditions of NYPA Service Tariff Nos. 39A and if applicable 39B). The Village's firm contract demand is 5,132 megawatts. DMO Lotkowitz reviewed how the maximum monthly allotments are calculated noting that we have room for growth. Comm. Moffa said one advantage of AMR will be to have the ability to reduce the load factor. Comm. Dolmatch added, billing from actual megawatts used – monthly calculation used versus theoretical. Comm. Moffa asked DMO Lotkowitz to check on how the peaking factor plays in and get the definition for load factor.

NEXT MEETING

The Board was reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Patty Couch
Patty Couch
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer