

**CITY OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Public Utilities Committee of the City of Grafton was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Grafton, North Dakota immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Ways and Means Committee meeting, Monday, October 5, 2015.

Chairperson West presided. Members present: Chris Lipsh, Shane Mohn, and Brian Sieben. Member absent: Len Wysocki. Others present: Greg Young, Dave Fellman, Don Hutson, Mary Stark, Nick Ziegelmann, Tony Dumas, Russ Geddes, Rock Desautel, Mary Stark, and Todd Kjelland.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

It was moved by Mr. Lipsh and seconded by Mr. Sieben to accept and order filed the Balance Sheets, Income and Expense Statements, and subsidiary reports for all Enterprise Funds for the month ending August, 2015. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Dumas reported the Department has annual fire arms qualifications due and two officers are being sent to Fargo for Basic Patrol training.

Mr. Sieben asked Chief Dumas for a status report regarding the case mentioned in the letter from Ibarra to the City Council; Ms. Ibarra accused the Police Department of doing nothing to protect her home from sale while she is incarcerated. Chief Dumas explained it is an open case so he cannot go into detail, but the case has been forwarded to the State Attorney's office for review; the Police Department expects that the States Attorney will declare the case a civil matter. Information was gathered by the Police Department and put into a report for the States Attorney. Mr. Lipsh asked the Police Chief to provide the Council members with a copy of the States Attorney formal decision once it is available.

Power Department Superintendent Russ Geddes reported the parts for the hospital switch are being shipped next week and the wire is already here, so they will complete the project soon.

Mr. Geddes explained the concrete pad under the transformer connected to the power plant is sinking to the degree it is pulling the transformer away from the building causing a bushing to crack. The transformer weighs 15 tons so it is a major project to correct the problem. Minnkota would likely bring a crane to help move the transformer and a concrete worker will need to work on it. With the help of Gene Loftsgard from the Maintenance Department they may be able to temporary adjust the transformer this fall and a long-term repair will have to be made next year.

Power Department staff is fixing street lights throughout town; one employee is off working beets.

Street Superintendent Rock Desautel reported the Department is patching streets and jetting sewer lines. He has talked with Electric Pump regarding the two lift stations that will be renovated; they will start working on them October 12th and will be done in 2 or 3 days.

Mr. Desautel said the Lessard lift station pump was plugged again on Monday. He contacted Kris Tisdale, Manager of the homes owned by LSTC, where it is suspected the problem originates, but she has not returned his call yet. There was no damage but the pump was plugged with shredded wipes. A letter will be mailed to all residents of Lessard Addition to ask that they be mindful of what is put into the system.

Chairperson West received a phone call regarding the steep incline at the end of the alley at 6th and Western Avenue; cars are scraping when they exit or enter the alley. It was discussed that if there is a concrete approach there is nothing that can be done.

Mr. Lipsh reminded residents to keep leaves out of the gutters so as not to overwork the storm sewer system any further. Chairperson West asked if anyone sees someone deliberately blowing leaves or grass into the street to please contact City Hall so that a letter can be mailed to the individual.

Mr. Sieben expressed concern that the railroad properties at the entrances of Grafton are not being mowed. It was reported that Dakota Northern railroad does not want anyone on their property for liability issues so the City is unable to mow the property or to hire anyone to mow it. There is a contractor mowing the property owned by Burlington Northern. Chairperson West suggested staff write a letter to Dakota Northern Railroad to see if they are working on the issue. Mr. Lipsh stated he has seen kids playing on the junk by Dakota Northern's building north of town and that there is a lot of nuisance junk around that building, they should be informed of that also.

Mr. Ziegelmann reported the Lessard Lift Station Relocation and Renovation Project is currently advertised for bid and any bids received will be reviewed for consideration at the next regular City Council meeting.

A written status report about the Water Plant Phase III Project was provided by AE2S; the project is progressing as planned. The Water Department received the 2014 Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the North Dakota Department of Health. The Water Department Superintendent reported the lead and copper testing results were good; the citizens who provided samples were excellent to work with again this year. Mr. Miskavige reported that two hydrants were replaced in the last couple weeks at 2nd and Griggs and 7th and Stephen.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Red River Regional Ideas to Action Summit will be held Wednesday, November 4th.

Mr. Ziegelmann reported that next month the Committee will review draft ordinances for mosquito spraying rates and landfill rates, and the landfill contract with Markit. He said the City

will also have to address the matter of bees in the City limits. Mr. Lipsh asked if there is any work being done on the penalty section of the ordinance for rubbish and grass clippings. Mr. Ziegelmann said the Department Heads have discussed referring this issue to the City Prosecutor and Municipal Judge for input. Chairperson West requested Police Chief Dumas talk with the City Prosecutor to develop some clarification and report back at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Lipsh, seconded by Mr. Sieben and carried to adjourn the meeting.

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Chris West, Chairperson

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor