

**CITY OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

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, February 3, 2020.

Chairperson Chris West presided. Members present: Phil Ray, Brian Sieben, Mary Stark, and Greg Young. Others present: Chris Lipsh, Dave Fellman, Don Hutson, Shane Mohn, Nick Ziegelmann, Tony Dumas, Kevin Sevigny, Rock Desautel, Russ Geddes, Loree Osowski, Shirley Burns, and Todd Morgan.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

It was moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Ms. Stark and carried to accept and order filed the Balance Sheets, Income and Expense Statements, and subsidiary reports for all Enterprise Funds for the month and year ending December 2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Dumas reported officers have been handling a lot of scam calls recently. A press release was given for one scam which was very aggressive and threatening. Officers were sent to the school to check on the children and put the parents' minds at ease.

Power Superintendent Geddes reported they have been working on the power plant to get that ready for the conversion. He reported there were 2 outages in December; one was at Fernwood and the second was December 27th when a recloser failed in the south sub. Minnkota replaced what was damaged and it went back into service; it worked for 2 days, then failed again. Usually when a high voltage piece of equipment goes, it is catastrophic. The recloser will be sent in to see if they can determine the cause of failure. In the meantime, two reclosers will be ordered from Eaton Power Systems to replace the rest of the 1978 vintage equipment and a 1997 recloser. Only Eaton Power Systems makes the equipment compatible with our system. Reclosers will be placed on a rotation schedule for testing.

Street/Wastewater Superintendent Rock Desautel requested permission to purchase a 2020 ½ ton Chevy 4x4 four door pickup. He obtained a bid from Hansons Auto for \$33,565 and the State bid is \$30,430. There is a possibility of a \$2,000 trade in allowance for a 2003 Chevrolet 2-wheel drive pickup, but the City Administrator would like to keep that pickup for other uses. The cost of the pickup would be combined between the Street and Wastewater Departments. He is requesting a 4 door pickup because you cannot fit 3 men in the front seat of a pickup. Mr. Young pointed out a Dodge could be purchased for \$7,000 less. Mr. Desautel said he would prefer to keep the business in town and servicing the vehicle can also be local. Mr. Ray pointed out the difference between the State bid and the bid from Hanson's Auto is there is \$1,400 worth of accessories that are included in the Hanson's bid so that reduces the price difference to about \$1,700. The accessories include mud flaps, chrome bumpers, running boards, bed liner and floor mats. Mr. Ziegelmann will review the Street and Wastewater Departments budgets to determine where the vehicle will be paid from. It was moved by Mr. Sieben and seconded by Mr. Young to recommend the City Council approve the purchase of a 2020 ½ ton Chevrolet 4x4 four door

pickup from Hanson's Auto for \$33,565. On roll call vote the following voted in favor thereof: Mr. Sieben, Ms. Stark, and Mr. Young. Member Ray recused himself as he is employed by Hanson's Auto. Those opposed: None. Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

Superintendent Desautel reported Scott Close should have the generator at the Master Lift wired by Thursday. A tech from the generator company has to be here for start up. Mr. Close will work at the Mobile Lift Station next. Mr. Desautel reported all the mixers are running on the aeration cells at the Lagoon. They have been having trouble with some lift stations the past couple weeks. They think they have the problems fixed. Over the weekend three pumps went down due to electrical issues and one was plugged.

Water Superintendent Sevigny thanked the Council members for the employee appreciation party stating it was appreciated and enjoyed by those able to attend.

Mr. Sevigny expressed thanks to the citizens of Grafton who have cleaned the snow away from their fire hydrants. He asked that anyone noticing a hydrant that needs to be cleared of snow contact the Water Department.

The Water Department has been busy working on winter maintenance projects and cleaning filters. They did have some issues after the power failure one morning but everything is up and running.

Jeremy Praska has accepted the Water Operator position and he will begin work February 18th.

The Water Department has also working on an inventory of meters for the AMI. They are also working on the inventory of service lines which is part of the revised lead and copper guidelines.

The Cemetery Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for tonight will be rescheduled for Monday, February 10th following the City Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A list of the donated utilities was provided for review.

Mr. Ziegelmann stated the RFP to provide bulk water service to the City of Drayton was submitted today. Drayton will review the proposal as part of their feasibility study.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Ray and carried to adjourn the meeting.

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Chris West, Chairperson

Wanda L. Ensrude, Deputy City Auditor