

**CITY OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF MARCH 4, 2019**

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, March 4, 2019.

Chairperson Chris West presided. Members present: Brian Sieben, Mary Stark and Greg Young. Others present: Nick Ziegelmann, Chris Lipsh, Dave Fellman, Tony Dumas, Kevin Sevigny, Russ Geddes, Rock Desautel, and Todd Morgan.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

It was moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Sieben and carried to accept and order filed the Balance Sheets, Income and Expense Statements, and subsidiary reports for all Enterprise Funds for the month ending January, 2019. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Chief Tony Dumas reported Officer Casey Jones has joined the Department; he had previously been employed by the Walsh County Sheriff's office. Chief Dumas reported the 2013 Ford Expedition was hit in an accident, so they are getting that repaired. It was discussed there are still quite a few cars parking long-term in the lot north of the Frosty Fox at 8th and Manvel Avenue. Chief Dumas said officers have ticketed and towed 3 to 4 vehicles.

Chairperson West said the elevator has been hauling fertilizer to the former Offutt warehouse at the 800 Block of Stephen Avenue and he has received two complaints that the alley is being blocked as the trucks are sitting. Chief Dumas is aware of that problem as they went last week and advised the truck drivers they could not block the alley. Chief Dumas was requested to visit with the elevator manager and let them know this has been a problem. Mr. Dumas said he also heard a complaint that these vehicles were off the truck route, but he clarified the ordinance does allow for delivering or picking up product.

Power Superintendent Russ Geddes presented quotes for a mini excavator (8000 lbs. class): Dakota Equipment – 2019 Yanmar V1035, 2 week delivery \$44,250; John Deere – 2019 JD-35G, must be ordered \$50,060; RDO – 2019 Hitachi 35U, must be ordered \$46,345.90. He recommends accepting the low bid from Dakota Equipment as the Department tried it last year and it worked very well and he feels it is the best machine of the three. The excavator has a universal tapered pin which is compatible with multiple manufacturer's equipment. Currently the Power Department uses the trencher and backhoe, which doesn't go deep enough. Replacing the backhoe has been in the budget for a few years. They will use the trailer they use with the trencher now. Mr. Geddes explained the Department has several river bores to complete and the trencher digs a maximum of 6.5', but the mini excavator will dig 9.5' deep. It was moved by Ms. Stark and seconded by Mr. Young to recommend the City Council approve the purchase of the mini excavator from Dakota Equipment for \$44,250. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

Mr. Geddes reported they have placed about 40 metal posts by transformers buried in snow to let snow removal contractors know where they are.

Chairperson West questioned if Mr. Geddes has finished with the MISO report for Minnkota and Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA); Mr. Geddes provided the data they requested. They will look that over and come back with another offer.

Administrator Ziegelmann reported Refuse Disposal Service will begin alley garbage pickup on the street in front of the home beginning March 11th.

Street Superintendent Rock Desautel reported the North Dakota Department of Transportation will be micro surfacing the driving lanes of Highway 17 from School Road to Hwy 81 this summer. There will be no cost to the City for this project. They will bid the project May 10th and the road will remain open during the repairs.

The City has been approved for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for emergency generators at the Master, Mobile, Boeing and Legion lift stations. Draft bid information for the generators was provided for review; request for bids will be published this month, with bids considered at next month's Council meeting. The City will also bid the electrical contractor. The City will purchase the transfer switches.

Street/Wastewater Department Superintendent Desautel provided a map with all the lift stations located and identified. The handout also included recent repairs and improvements to each lift station.

Street/Wastewater Department Superintendent Desautel presented bids for a new wireless SCADA system for the lift stations: Stone's Mobile Radio, Inc. 13 lift stations \$152,978.04; Integrated Process Solutions, Inc 13 lift stations \$50,700, plus three options for Master lift station controls ranging from \$14,800 to \$23,085, plus the cost of an electrician to complete the work; Rock's Electric Construction, Inc. 8 lift stations and new computer setup at Maintenance Building \$55,000, new controls \$7,700, and \$4,400 per lift station for the last 5 that will be done as the budget permits. The SCADA system will allow the lift stations to be monitored by Street/Wastewater staff with two phone lines and a computer at the Maintenance building rather than by dispatch employees at the Law Enforcement Center. In addition, Stones Mobile Radio Inc. currently has the lift station monitoring contract and service has been unsatisfactory; one example is the 5th Street Lift Station was reconstructed two years ago and Stones still has not installed the monitoring system. Staff recommends accepting the proposal from Rock's Electric Construction, Inc. as they considered it the most reasonable bid, the business is located closest to the City when maintenance is required or in case of an emergency, and the contractor will work over a period of years as the budget permits. With Rock's Electric proposal, lift stations 1-8 and the Master Lift electronics upgrade would be done first with the \$50,000 monitoring system budget and the \$10,000 Master lift computer, other lift stations would be added as funding becomes available. Power Department Superintendent Geddes asked what frequency this system would use, licensed or unlicensed as the unlicensed frequency is very congested. It was moved by Mr. Sieben and seconded by Ms. Stark to recommend the City Council accept the bid from Rock's Electric with clarification of the concern expressed by the Power Superintendent. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

Water Department Superintendent Sevigny reported the Department has had a few houses/trailers freeze, which required meter repairs, etc. They spent about 40-50 hours cleaning around 90 hydrants using the Power Department bobcat. Some of the seasonal people are coming back and that could prove to be problematic because some have snow piled up 8 to 12 feet deep which will make it difficult to locate the curbstops.

Mr. Lipsh questioned what temperature the faucet closest to your water meter should be. Mr. Sevigny said right now tap water coming back into the water plant is about 7 degrees so there is not a lot of concern about freezing up; however with service on the outside walls of houses, there is a chance of a problem. It's expected that water would be colder now because in the winter the raw water is entering the plant at 39 degrees, in the summer it will be 70 degrees or higher.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The North Dakota League of Cities March Madness Sense and Sensibility will be held March 26 and 27 in Bismarck. Let Connie or Wanda know if you wish to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Chris West, Chairperson

Connie A. Johnson, City Auditor