

MINUTES of the  
TOWN OF VERONA Utility Commission Board\*  
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS – Operating/Capital for Utility District #1 and Marty Parcels  
Town of Verona Town Hall  
335 N Nine Mound Road, Verona  
**November 17, 2015 6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Dreger, Enburg, Geller, Duerst, Maxwell

Staff Present: Arnold, Wright

Citizens Present: Steve Sheets, Sue Romens, Tammy Dresser (others arrived after the start of the meeting and/or who only signed the attendance sheet for the Public Hearing for the Town of Verona Budget, including Tammy Dresser, Tom Mathies, and Robert Kohlenberg)

**1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda**

Mark Geller called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Motion by Enburg to approve the agenda; second by Dreger. Motion carried.

**2. Approval of meeting minutes from November 5, 2014**

Enburg moved to approve the budget minutes of the 2014 Utility Commission; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Geller. Motion carried.

**3. Presentation on Repairs and Televising the System**

Clerk/Treasurer Wright referred those present to handouts and maps detailing the history of repairs to the system. Wright noted that televising occurs the year prior to repairs for those sections; this delay between televising and repair is necessary in order to budget for the projected expenses. 2015 repairs included relining most of the main below Nesbitt Road and repairing two displaced taps. 2016 repairs will include the repair of a non-factory tap on Fitchrona Road and relining a damaged section with the cured-in-place method which does not require digging or destruction of the roadbed. 2016 televising includes sections in the Hillside Heights neighborhood and to the west and north of the western bulb of the Pheasant Lane cul-de-sac. Overall, the system is in very good condition considering that the oldest sections are forty-five years old.

Wright stated that his strategy has been to televise only about a fifth of the system each year and recommends adhering to this rotation. He noted that the oldest sections were not televised or cleaned in the first thirty years of service. Wright recommends not televising those sections shared with the City of Fitchburg (north of Lacy Road and south of Pump Station #12 on Fitchrona Road) since the City owns equipment to do so. Although two apartment complexes and a housing subdivision are due to be completed in the City that will be contributing to the effluent volume, Wright has been assured by Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District that the main and Pump Station have more than adequate capacity to handle all the development. Wright further noted that the Pump Station is undergoing updates, but the cost is shared by all members of the system, not just the local contributors. Chair Geller recessed the Utility Commission meeting at 6:25 PM to open the Public Hearing; without objection.

**4. Public Hearing regarding proposed 2016 Utility District #1 Budget**

Clerk/Treasurer Wright presented multiple documents to those present regarding the current budget for 2016 that includes income from levying a Special Charge on the tax bill of those within the Utility District and the three Marty Parcels who qualify for a fee. Wright further requested that the Utility Commission offer guidance regarding standby fees; two parcels are currently assessed a \$48 annual fee that are not connected to the system. One parcel has a residence that is not habited and the other has a garage for a home on an adjacent parcel. Wright indicated that through recent mapping, three other parcels have been identified that have likewise paid the fee to be part of the Town's Utility District, yet are undeveloped. Should they be assessed a standby fee as well? After brief discussion on the topic, no guidance from the Commission was offered.

Wright noted that income for the 2016 budget also includes the amount that would need to be taken from the Utility District's reserves required to cover projected expenses. Expenses include the costs to televise and clean a portion of the system in 2016, the cost of repairs to the portion of the system televised in 2015, insurance, annual audit expense, and administration by Town staff. The current reserve balance is approximately \$82,000.

Supervisor Enburg asked Wright to estimate the current cost to replace the system. Wright replied that the system is not in need of replacement; however, it would benefit from relining to virtually eliminate all infiltration and inflow. Most sections of the system do not require relining which currently costs \$35 per linear foot; therefore, relining is recommended on an as-needed basis only. A regular routine of cleaning, televising, root cutting, and

grouting will likely prolong the life of the system and delay the need to reline or replace sections. Enburg stated that he does not want the reserve balance to continue to be depleted for routine maintenance; however, he stated he is also sensitive to increasing costs for users. Enburg is hopeful that if the current system could be extended to other users within the Town; he reasoned that expenses could then be shared by a larger number of users. Supervisor Dreger stated she was willing to support a \$40 increase to the base fee to slow the reduction of reserves. Supervisor Duerst noted he was initially prepared to keep annual rates flat; however, when presented with ten years of data regarding rising costs from MMSD and fixed costs for maintenance, he is now in favor of an increase.

Resident Robert Kohlenberg asked when rate increases added to tax bills for the special charge for public sewerage service would level off; Clerk/Treasurer Wright stated that the entire system should be televised by the end of 2016 and all major repairs identified for the 2017 budget. Wright is hoping that the series of rate increases in the past two years and being considered this evening will at minimum cover all budget expenses beyond the fees owed to Madison Metro Sewerage District including: insurance, annual audit, management by Town staff, televising, and repairs. Resident Steve Sheets asked who televises and maintains the gravity main that parallels the Military Ridge Trail that flows from the northwestern edge of Goose Lake east towards Fitchrona Road. Wright assumes that is maintained by the Madison Metro Sewerage District (MMSD) as effluent from the City of Madison and the Town of Middleton connect to that gravity main as well. Wright will check with MMSD to confirm.

5. **Close Public Hearing**

Duerst moved to close the Public Hearing; second by Dreger. Motion carried at 6:40 PM.

6. **Discussion and Action re: Proposed 2016 Utility District #1 Budget**

Duerst moved to approve a \$60 increase to the base fee for a single family residence that is the basis for all other charges (see attached spreadsheet of the impact of a \$20, \$40, and \$60 increase to the base); second by Enburg. Roll call vote: Duerst: aye; Enburg: aye; Dreger: aye; Maxwell: aye; and Geller: aye. Motion carried. The rate change will be presented to the Town Board for adoption as a Resolution to amend Ordinance 91-1.

7. **Adjourn the Commission Meeting**

Enburg moved to adjourn at 7:10 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dreger. Motion carried.

\*The Town Board of Supervisors serves at the Utility District Board

Approved: May 13, 2016

---

John Wright  
Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Verona