

Sewer & Water Committee meeting

March 22, 2010

Attended by Wm Wehlage, Adam Johnson, Bill Trygstad, Chris Parker, Beth Winchester, Jack Roberts and Chad Larson.

- * Final tally of those willing to hook to the water system: 86 yes – 53 no – and 54 did not answer. There was also 4 known sand points with no answer.
- * Beth did the rate worksheet from the Minnesota Rural Water association. Using the 2009 actual expenses, number of users and amount of water usage, with the \$11.00 base fee, the City should be charging \$11.29 per 1,000 gallons used. Using a hypothetical connection of 119 and an expense target of \$25,000 at the current base fee of \$11.00, the City should charge \$0.68 per 1,000 gallons used.
- * Discussion was held on the water rates and tying in of the sewer rates. This would entice more people to hook into the system if the sewer rate was adjusted. Though Council did request to look at how many do hook into the water system and revisit the rate study in September to see what the averages are. However, the committee can still work on those rates now to present at the September council meeting. If there is no new water rate, the City could lose new hook-ups since it was suggested for the Committee to look into water rates. The sewer cap for water users should also be the flat rate for non-water users. There are some towns that do meter well water to get the rates for sewer.
- * Bill Trygstad discussed the sodding/seeding issues. Heselton will be back once these areas are workable and any sunken areas they will need to take care of. All residential areas will be sodded, unless the homeowners would rather have seed, and Beth will take note of those until April 15th. The other notice to homeowners, if your plumber gets started before the project is fully finished they will be responsible for any work not finished by Heselton since their plumber touched that area. Outlot A on East 8th Street was discussed for sodding/seeding, currently it will be sodded and committee recommends it stays that way.
- * Street sweeping was discussed. Chad would like to have the streets done, but the understanding is Heselton will do those areas that the project has been done and the City will need to do the Mobile Home Park.
- * Native grass areas do not need seeding or sodding as the City will be using round-up on those properties. The E street culvert drainage area needs to be looked into as well.
- * Currently the base project is \$2.903 million for both water mains and reservoir, with the grant being \$3.162 million, leaving the City with \$258,000 for the Mobile Home Park extension. However, the water mains are \$40,000 over budget and the reservoir is \$10,000 over budget. PFA has requested the City finish the project before they will grant us the money to extend the water main.
- * Service lines still needing installing: ball fields, Tim Daniels, Donna Brown, Doug Horsnell, Lee Henry home for apartment, Creamery since two parcels. Service Lines eliminated: Church had two, Daryl Oevering since he will get his from Wadewitz subdivision, Ziebells had three, Gene Gibbs second garage (he requested no service line), Ramona Jezewski requested no curb stop to 2 lot field, Jon Nienow has two though he does have two parcels. For those that did not want service lines, Beth must get them in writing.
- * Easements are ready for signatures; Beth will get them since they need to be notarized. Though Potter's hill and Wadewitz farm is not done since there isn't a clear property description on them. Bill Trygstad will need to go to the courthouse for those records.

* Dave Kramer, Winona County Engineer, talked with Bill Trygstad on the North Broadway bridge project. The money should be in this year's bonding bill, though it could still get cut. Once the bridge is complete, the City will need to find someone to inspect it. Jack Roberts though Erickson Engineering would be doing this by our contract with them.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

* Set a goal to have an affordable water rate after 40 new users hook up. This would keep the incentive of more users hooking into the system if they know the committee is working on a new rate that would take effect the month after the 40 new users hook up.