

Village of Bellaire

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Brent Nelson, Chairman

Denny Balon

Trish Drollinger

MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2010

1. Call to Order: Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Attendance

Present: Chairman Nelson, Denny Balon

Absent: Trish Drollinger

Staff Present: Cathy Odom (Deputy Clerk/Treasurer), Janet Koch (Clerk), Ken Stead (DPW Supervisor)

Also Present: Jim White of Mika, Meyers, Beckett and Jones, Colette Stanish

3. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as written.

**Motion by Balon, seconded by Nelson, to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried by voice vote.**

4. Approval of the October 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved.

Motion by Balon, seconded by Nelson, to approve the minutes of October 1, 2009 as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items: None presented.

6. Old Business

Sewer/Water Rate Change –Jim White introduced himself as a municipal bond attorney, saying that he'd been working with small municipalities since 1977. Each of the committee members had a copy of a letter dated July 23, 2010 from Mr. White to Cathy Odom. The letter, which is subject to attorney-client privilege, detailed an analysis of the current rates.

The conclusion of the July 23, 2010 letter is a suggestion that the village increase the sewer commodity rate (which is the fee per 1000 gallons of usage) for properties exempt from property taxes. This would compensate for the fact that those entities are not contributing to the repayment of the general obligation bond.

Mr. White said he'd rework his analysis to include three alternatives:

- 1) The current approach with verified figures;
- 2) Remove the 200% rate for out-of-village customers and spread the general obligation bond debt evenly;
- 3) Leave the 200% rate as is and spread the bond debt across the in-village customers. This makes the assumption that the property owners paying 200% rates are already paying for a portion of the debt service.

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Mr. White will send a letter to the village with more details before the next council meeting. The Public Works Committee will wait until the letter is presented to council before pursuing any significant work on the sewer rate changes.

7. New Business

- a) **Water turn-on fee for emergency repairs** – Odom asked the Committee if they wanted to continue to charge the \$30 turn-on fee when repairs were of an emergency nature. The Committee felt the cost was reasonable and decided to take no action.
- b) **Fire suppression fees** – Odom said that the village currently charges an annual fire suppression fee of \$150 to customers with overhead sprinklers. (Fee for out of village customers is \$300.) One of the customers who is charged the fee is refusing to pay. This customer is questioning the legality of the fee.

Ken Stead said the fire suppression water lines are tapped directly into the village's mains and are anywhere from 2" to 6" in diameter.

The committee asked Odom to ask village counsel about the legality of fire suppression fees before moving forward with any recommendations to council.

8. Discussion Items: None presented.

9. Communications/Informational: None presented.

10. Member/Public Comment: None presented.

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Compiled by: _____
Janet Koch, Clerk

Approved: _____
Brent Nelson, Chair

Date: _____