

Plainfield Water/WasteWater Commission
Meeting Minutes for March 28, 2023

Present In Zoom Session: Tim Phillips, Carol Smith, Josh Pitts, Mary Lane, Tristan Macgregor-Stewart, Scott Franks, Arion Thiboumery

5:17PM Meeting called to order

Review/approve agenda

Agenda approved.

Review/adopt minutes

Approved minutes for 2/21/2023 as written.

Rate Restructure Template Discussion

Arion arrived at this part at the meeting

Arion had done analysis of scenarios for adjusting the rating structures.

Scenario 1: Reduce base rate across the board. He modeled dropping base rate to 15,000 gallons and saw that this increases the rates about %5 based on current data models.

Scenario 2: Keep residential rates the same, apartments down %20, businesses up %33. There seems to be a 2 to 1 proportion. An increase of \$1 for each business allocation allows for a 50 cent decrease for each apartment allocation.

Tristan explained how the allocations for water/wastewater are state-mandated but that the pricing for those allocations is not state-regulated. We can set the rates we feel are fair and can defend without running into state oversight problems.

Arion departed the meeting at the conclusion of this portion.

Clerk's financial report

Large water delinquency list but payments are coming in now.

Goddard is supposed to pay wastewater by tomorrow and Carol is concerned because of the strike that they have going on. This is \$23,000 so it will be a problem if delayed.

Delinquencies

Scott looked at the delinquencies back in November. It was \$27,000 back then which amounts to about 4% of the budget. The statutes allow us to select how collections are made so Scott looked into using a local debt collection agency. Scott/Tristan believe if we send the current debts through a collection agency and follow up on shutting water off the problems with ongoing delinquencies would stop.

Marshfield Property Tax

Tabled until future meeting

Chief Facility Operator's report

Everything in general is going ok.

John Merrifield came down to the plant and did an inspection from the state. Didn't indicate anything was wrong.

A resident on Creamery Street is talking about adding a barn with water and sewer service and a Zoning official indicated that they didn't need to talk with Water/WasteWater. Tristan found out and has followed up with the property owner that there does need to be an inspection of piping before it is buried.

Approve warrants

Warrants for 2/21/2023, 2/24/2023, 2/28/2023, 3/8/2023, 3/14/2023, 3/15/2023, 3/22/2023 were approved

Other business

Jamie Yearling had posted on Plainfield People asking about the waterline markings in front of his house. Jamie thought this indicated digging near-term on his property. The markings are for the Route 2 repaving project for VTRANS and are simply preventative so they know where everything is before they bid the paving projects.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 18th, 2023 at 5:15PM as a ZOOM session.

The meeting adjourned 6:58PM

Submitted by Tim Phillips