

Town of Lake Lure – Utilities Board

- Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting – August 6, 2019

The Utility Advisory Board held their regular meeting at the Town of Lake Lure Municipal Center on Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

Members Present:

Wayne Hyatt, Chairman
David Diorio
Don Cason
John Chapman
Richard Glassen

Bob Cameron – Liaison

Others Present:

David Arrowood
Linda Ward – Board Clerk

Members Absent:

General Meeting Actions

Call to Order – Chairman Wayne Hyatt called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Consider Approval of the July 2, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes – Richard Glassen made a motion to approve the minutes, John Chapman seconded and the motion carried 5 - 0.

Old Business

a. Amend the June 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes per Don Cason – Richard Glassen made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes, David Diorio seconded and the motion carried 5 – 0.

b. Low Pressure Sewer System Update – David Arrowood told the board that the ER is very close but not completely finished at this time. He also told the board that BLE, a geo-tech company, is still out doing some work with the ground penetrating radar. Once they are finished gathering the numbers on the quantity of the rock along the preliminary route, they will then submit a report to the Town of their findings. The board then had a brief discussion on how those numbers will then go to the engineers to help narrow down the costs of line installation.

Contract with Schnabel for the dam have not been signed yet. He mentioned that the Town has applied for a FEMA grant, and they have said that we cannot sign the contract until we know if the grant is approved. If we sign the contract beforehand we would not receive any funds.

David Diroro reported that the Town is engaging with legislatures along with Patrick McHenry about helping with grant for the dam. David Diorio told the board that the Hydro Electric generator will not be covered under the grant, so that contract concerning the generator has been signed.

New Business

a. ***Barnes Low Pressure Pumps Presentation given by John Wilson*** – Wayne Hyatt introduced John Wilson, Heritage Water Systems, who was here to show a presentation on Barnes Low Pressure Pumps.

Mr. Wilson has been in the municipal pump business for about 35 years. Tim Tilley, also at the meeting, has worked alongside him for many years. Both grew up in this business and had worked for other companies before starting Heritage Water Systems. He told the board that they are very excited about Barnes pumps, which have been around since the 1800's and are made in the USA.

He then went over a list of references of a few places in the area and afar that use Heritage Water Systems. He told the board that the list has phone numbers on it and that the board is welcome to contact them with any questions they may have.

John Wilson then introduced Nick Spondike, who works directly with Barnes and was here to give the presentation and answer any questions the board may have. John said that he has been involved with many big projects using these pumps and has been involved with pressure sewer systems for about 45 years. He told the board that Nick is one of the few people that can do the whole project from beginning to end. He can do the all the design work, layout the system, apply the pumps and work with the Town on selection.

Nick told the board that he has discussed the project with Brown Engineering and Cape Fear, but that he wanted to hear from the board about what they are wanting to do.

At this point Wayne Hyatt went around the table and told the folks giving the presentation what each one on the board members do and their background/experience in utilities. He told them that they are an advisory board and will be making recommendations to Council.

Nick said that there are three to five companies that can really tell you about grinder pumps. Those being Environment One, Crane/Barnes, FE Meyers, Hydromatic and Delta Environmental. Nick said that he has worked in the business for so long that he can tell you the good and bad of all of the pumps out there. He also mentioned that different companies come to him for answers on system problems because he has worked for most of them at least once and some twice.

He told the board that Centrifugal pumps are all about the same and that he feels like positive displacement pumps are not the way to go for the Town of Lake Lure. He said that this type system will need to be evaluated, the whole system, to show that the big line at the end will be able to handle everything, and that the state will want to see that.

Nick mentioned that his model will show what the different pumps will do in different places around town. That he can put in what will be where into a design program and see how anything will work. Richard Glassen asked if we would need to have the same pump throughout the system. Nick said that you could use different pumps throughout the system and that he can show it in the model, prove it hydraulically. He also told the board that he thinks it is critical to bid specific pumps.

Bob Cameron asked Nick what his fee structure would be and Nick said that he would be a consultant to our engineers for no cost because he wants to protect the pressure sewer system method. He mentioned that in the late 70's and early 80's the industry made some horrific mistakes to those systems and they got a bad name for a while. He wants to protect the credibility to that design method.

David Diorio asked Nick about using collective systems. His answer is that it will cost more to have collective systems because of pipe and rock. Gravity/collective systems have a minimum pipe size of 8". Pump lines can be 2" pipe which costs less and is easier to install. The cost is about 30 – 50% more for gravity system. Gravity will have INI. Pumps are closed system and will not get INI. Nick said that they would not save money to go with the gravity lines that are in now.

Nick estimated the cost of tank, setting the tank, pump, and line to Town's main line will be approximately \$5500 to \$6000 per home owner.

Nick and the board then discussed the responsibilities of the Town and property owner once the stations are in and operating. He told the board that Barnes has a 'plug n play' which can be fixed in about 8 minutes and that the switch is separate on the pump. Nick said he personally likes floats rather than switches. Fixed differential is the difference between the floats and switches.

Nick said that they will train and certify designated people to do the maintenance for the pump system. He mentioned that it's good to give customers a list of people that are trained for them to call when they have an issue or their alarm goes off.

The board was told that the Town could have a contract, 2 years or more, in which the price could be fixed except for designated escalation, never back to back, and then only 3% increase. Maybe a five year contract with 2 year renewal.

David Diorio brought up the fact that we have a lot of that are not here two or months out of the year, and pumps like to run. Nick said that all pumps like to be run. If grinder pumps sit for

2 to 3 months, unless they are out of water, the cutter may need to be tapped to free it. Or can add a dosing timer, which will make it run once a week. Nick suggested charging a minimal fee to have maintenance checks one or two times a year.

John Chapman asked Nick how long it would take for modeling our system. He said it would be 30 days at most once he gets drawings that he can work with.

John Wilson thanked the board for their time and that he hated that they weren't able to talk about the pump itself today and he would be happy to talk about them with anyone that wants to hear.

Open Comments/ Discussion –

Russ Pitts discussed Pangea and Broadband in Lake Lure, updated the board on what has happened since the last meeting. He mentioned that Ron Walters did give Broadband a copy of the RFP, and they did respond back to Brad Burton concerning this. Ron Walters also spoke with Brad about the contract that Pangea has with the Town. He also talked a little bit about how this area will need multiple types of service, that being fiber, wireless, cellular. He does not think that one will fit all. The board determined that we need to have an update on the agenda for the next meeting.

Public Comments –

None

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

ATTEST

Wayne Hyatt, Chairman

Linda Ward, Clerk