

# Village Of Lawrence

157 N. Paw Paw  
P.O. Box 217  
Lawrence Michigan 49064  
(269) 674-8161 Fax (269) 674-3004  
www.lawrencemi.org



**Public Services Committee Meeting** 1-6-2020 Call to order: 6:00 PM

Present: D Quick, J Gritter, R Smith, B Johnson, D Faulkner, M Keyser  
Guests: Dale Gribbler, Derek Sever and Tony McGhee of Abonmarche, Phil Glennie

## ACTION ITEMS

- Motion by Gritter, second by Quick
  - Request Council approve a **one time** rate increase for water that would be in addition to the 3% annual increase applied to the "ready to serve" cost that occurs each year. This increase applies to the cost of water per unit and amounts to a net one time increase delta of 20%. PASSED

	Cost per ¾" meter	Volume cost per unit
Current Rate	\$20.24	\$4.86
Increase of	\$0.61	\$1.12
Percent Increase	3%	22.9%
New Rate	\$20.85	\$5.98

- Motion by Gritter, second by Smith
  - Request Council approve a \$5000.00 payment to Wightman and Associates to prepare an ICE grant application. This is through MEDC, is due by February 14<sup>th</sup>, is a 10% match and has a minimum expenditure of \$500,000.00. Project currently being reviewed is the refurbishment of the James St. lift station. The Village already has engineering designs in house for this project that only need review and submittal. PASSED
- Motion by Gritter, second by Quick
  - Request Council to authorize and earmark funds not to exceed \$150,000.00 to refurbish, repave and bring to fruition improvements to Blackman and South streets so as to prepare for and accommodate in a responsible manner the expected traffic increase and its related ramifications expected by the Villager due to the VBISD adding the "Van Buren Health Department" to its existing campus. PASSED (*note: engineering services provided by A R Engineering; to wit said services not to exceed \$55,700.00. also: \$154,000.00 currently exists in the local street fund whereby additional monies will not be required*) PASSED

## ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

- Guests
  - Dale Gribbler
    - Regarding the ongoing and unresolved issues associated with old Masonic Lodge building, (item 1) specifically the water that ingresses into the basement after Consumers Power had the alley repaved incorrectly whereby increasing grade height.

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- Dialogue with representatives of Consumers Energy has resulted in no resolution. They posture that when they offered to repave the alley to repair various holes they created due to their inspection during the repaving of South St. Joseph St., the Village accepted. The Village upon agreeing to this offer expected it to be repaved (milled, leveled and resurfaced) NOT simply a "band-aid" cover up that has created undue hardships within the Village including its administration, residents, the affected property owners, fiscal expenditure, and unproductive man hours. Village Administrator will be involving legal counsel to communicate with Consumers going forward searching for a resolution. More data expected by upcoming Council meeting.
- Regarding the ongoing and unresolved issues associated with old Masonic Lodge building, (item 2) specifically the sewer backup insurance claim still with no resolution. A meeting with the involved parties, i.e. Village Administrator. Dale Gribbler, and legal counsel is being scheduled so that a course of action going forward may be discussed at the upcoming Council meeting. Although President Quick has abstained from discussions regarding this issue at the PSC meetings the Village insurance company maintains a "conflict of interest" exists regarding this claim.
- Representatives of Abonmarche (Derek and Tony) offered a presentation regarding working with the Village on future projects. This would include but would not be limited to improvements, grants, consultation and information.
  - Points of interest
    - Received \$10,000,000.00 in Grants in 5 years
    - Do not require contracts and or retainers
    - Long history working within Van Buren County. e.g. South Haven, Van Buren Road Commission, Bangor, Paw Paw, South Haven Township, South Haven Area Recreation Authority.
  - Phil Glennie raised some concerns regarding pooling water at the northeast corner of Midway Court and James St. DPW will review.
- Administrator Report
  - Offered by Faulkner
    - Topical issues may be reviewed at Council Meeting
      - Chair person note:
        - The EGLE mandates being imposed on the Village regarding its municipal water supply and all of its various components including but not limited to: processing, storage, acquisition, security and delivery are continuing. For example, it is estimated that the Village will have to replace twenty (20) service lines per year for

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the next twenty (20) years. These edicts currently come with no effort from EGLE as to method and or funding.

- DPW report
  - Offered by Johnson
    - Topical issues may be reviewed at Council Meeting
    - Preparing to sell the old service truck
- Smith had a question regarding steering tires on the tandem plow truck.
  - Johnson is investigating
- Gritter inquired as to leaving pole lights up year-round
  - Forward to Parks & Rec. Com.

Adjourn: 8:22 PM

Respectfully submitted: M Keyser/ chairperson PSC

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