

MINUTES OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
January 13, 2020

The January 13, 2020 Utilities Committee meeting was called to order by Paul Moskun at 5:30 P.M. Present were: Tim Calfee, Christina West, Matt Harper and Andrew Kluge. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Fire Chief, Geoffrey Cleveland; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio; Deena Tannert of 784 East Main Street, Ravenna, Ohio; Clifford Soudil of 464 Woodlawn Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio and Finance Director-elect, Brian Huff.

Mr. Moskun said the first item on the agenda is the siphon drain at Lake Hodgson.

Mr. Finney said that an additional \$6,300.00 to pay the additional charges that were due to the cost of the construction of the original siphon drain. The ODNR required the city to provide a way to drain the lake if needed. They've fought them for a few years and ODNR finally said that it's no longer acceptable so the siphon drain was accepted by ODNR. So they can drain the lake if they need to. There is a natural drain through Sandy Lake but that wasn't acceptable to ODNR. They wanted that siphon drain in there. The way it was designed to be installed, there were issues with it and it cost additional funds.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action.

Mr. Moskun said the next item is QCI contract.

Mr. Finney said Quality Control Inspection is a company used for construction inspection as needed. The contract is a blanket contract entered into on a yearly basis so if the services are needed, a contract is in place. It sets the rate for the year. At this point they are not being used and there is no project planned for them but this puts a contract in place and on the shelf as needed. Last year they were used on two projects. That consumed probably four or five months. This is for utility or right of way inspections; water line, gas line, storm lines but not building inspections.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action.

Mayor Seman said that at some time during this next year they will need to do an analysis of the water and sewer rates. He had a business ask why our water rates are so low. He was concerned that they may not be able to keep up if there are damages or repairs needed. They've been able to do that and there is ample supply but there are increased costs that keep coming due to EPA regulations. They can only keep doing that for so long. They are talking about a plant that is 34 years old. For 20 years they haven't had to do anything but they've been spending money on that plant lately. It seems every time a project is started, the costs start at \$100,000.00. This is just a heads up and Council will be involved in looking at the rate structure. They try to keep the rates as low as they can for the residents.

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Mr. Moskun asked if that might be a graduated rate increase.

Mayor Seman responded that is what they would be looking at, they don't want to do it all at once. The gentleman who asked him that lives in Hiram and Hiram's water system went down and their bills just came off the charts. They don't want to do that and want to maintain what they've got. Our people have done a good job of that. He's proud of both those plants and the people who work in them but they still have to plan for the future.

There being no further items to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 5:39 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Paul Moskun, Chairman
Utilities Committee