

Muskegon County
Board of Public Works
September 11, 2014
4:00 p.m.
Michael E. Kobza Hall of Justice
990 Terrace Street
Muskegon, MI 49442

Terry Sabo, Chair

Benjamin Cross, Vice Chair

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Sabo at 4:01 p.m.

ROLL

Present: Terry Sabo, Muskegon County Commissioner
Marvin Engle, Muskegon County Commissioner
Susie Hughes, Muskegon County Commissioner
Charles Nash, Muskegon County Commissioner
Rillastine Wilkins, Muskegon County Commissioner
Benjamin Cross, Muskegon County Commissioner
Brenda Moore, Drain Commissioner
Kim Arter, Ex-officio Member

Excused: Robert Scolnik, Muskegon County Commissioner
Doug Kadzban, Ex-officio Member

Absent:

Staff
Present: John Warner, Public Works Director
Mark Eisenbarth, Wastewater Director
Doug Hughes, Corporate Counsel
Tina Nash, DPW Departmental Clerk
Ken Mahoney, Muskegon County Board of Commissioner Chair
Jim Elwell, Interim County Administrator
Ellen Pallasch, Administrative Analyst
Jonathan Wilson, Economic Development Coordinator

BPW-14-067 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Wilkins, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

BPW-14-068 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Cross, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 14, 2014.

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AN AGENDA ITEM

None

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

BPW-14-069 – Adopt proposed FY2015 budget, maintain current rate and issue \$4M Bond.

Moved by Commissioner Nash, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, to recommend the adoption of the proposed FY2015 Wastewater Budget, maintain the current rate of \$2,952.01 per million gallons and issue a \$4M Bond for capital improvements projects. Further move to adopt the new laboratory fee structure.

Mr. Eisenbarth presented the proposed Wastewater budget to the Board members.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Arter spoke on behalf of the users group in support of scenario #2 (to sell \$4M in bonds, forgo a rate increase and have a rate increase of 4.9% in 2016). Ms. Arter stated that at the last Muskegon Municipal Wastewater Management Committee meeting all but one of the townships voted in favor of this option. Ms. Arter explained that some of the townships are still trying to catch up from previous rate increases.

Chairman Sabo read an email message from Mr. Kadzban that stated "The Wastewater user group had a discussion relating to the Wastewater rates. The consensus was that, after several years of rate increases, we wanted a year of no rate increases and all but two members voted in support of a no raise for 2015. Hopefully the County Board will follow suit and go along with the recommendation of the users group."

Roll call:

Ayes – Hughes, Moore, Nash, Wilkins, Cross, Sabo

Nays – Engle

Excused - Scolnik

Abstain – None

Motion carried

BPW-14-070 – Approve contract with Muskegon Astronomical Society.

Moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Drain Commissioner Moore, to approve the attached contract with Muskegon Astronomical Society to use the designated area of the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System for their astronomical observatory facility and authorize the chair to sign same.

VOICE VOTE:

Motion carried

BPW-14-071 – Approve contract with Muskegon Community College.

Moved by Commissioner Cross, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, to approve the attached contract with Muskegon Community College to use the designated area of the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System for their astronomical observatory facility and authorize the chair to sign same.

VOICE VOTE:

Motion carried

BPW-14-072 – Information Items

Moved by Commissioner Nash, seconded by Commissioner Cross, that the following information items be received and placed on file:

1. Public Works Monthly Operations Report, August 2014.
2. Wastewater Monthly Operating Report, August 2014.
3. Muskegon Municipal Wastewater Management Committee Minutes, August 2014 (draft).
4. Muskegon County Regional Water Policy Board Minutes, August 2014 (draft).

VOICE VOTE:

Motion carried

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Eisenbarth informed the Board of two pieces of Wastewater equipment that were damaged this week at the Wastewater site. The first being a pick-up truck that was destroyed when it caught on fire and the second was a rig that was hit by a semi-truck. Mr. Eisenbarth stated that the company that owns the semi-truck has agreed to pay for the damages to the rig.

Commissioner Hughes asked Mr. Eisenbarth about the corn crop. Mr. Eisenbarth stated that the price of corn is low and they will harvest and sell some of the corn for silage. Commissioner Cross asked if it would be possible to hold on to the corn for a better price. Commissioner Hughes asked Mr. Eisenbarth if it would be possible to lease silos. Mr. Eisenbarth stated that he knew of some; however those were for farmers to use.

Commissioner Nash asked Mr. Eisenbarth if they tracked the consultant's recommendations for the crops. Mr. Eisenbarth stated that they do and that it was a staff member, Mr. Ken Scarth, who makes the crop recommendations and he has been accurate in his recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON A NEW ITEM

None

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board of Public Works the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Terry Sabo, Chair