

The meeting was called to order by Sabel at 6:30 p.m. with the following Roll Call:

Members Present: Sabel, Liebenow, Voss

Others Present: Mayor Heron, Ald. Nitschke, Ald. Sabel, Kathie Wild, Shelley Eilbes, Vern Hilker, Ron Guse, Ron Wellner, Sally Kahlhamer, Brian Paynter, Bob Smith, Sue Smith

Item #2 – Approve Minutes of December 18, 2007 meeting.

Motion by Liebenow, second by Voss to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #3 – Citizens Comments.

None.

Item #4 – Monthly Utilities Report.

**A. 225 S. Main Street-Private Well Abandonment.**

Ron Wellner reported that he got a complaint from a person that thought there was a well at 225 S. Main St in the back yard. They have checked it out and there is a hand dug well. Currently a bank in Minnesota owns the property. He sent a certified letter to the bank and got Town & Country to cover the well. The building inspector is also involved.

**B. Refinancing 1997 Sewer System Revenue Bonds.**

Phil Cosson contacted him and suggested refinancing the 1997 sewer revenue bonds in order to get a lower interest rate. Ron will be taking it in front of the Water/Wastewater Commission for their approval and it should come in front of council for approval around March or April.

**C. 4<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station Construction Report.**

Ron reported that the plans are ready for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street lift station project and it is ready to go out for bid. The early estimates have come in more than \$140,000 which is more than what was budgeted. It will need to go in front of the Water/Wastewater Commission.

**D. Cross Connection Inspections-Industrial & Commercial.**

The State requires us to do industrial cross connection inspections every year and commercial inspections every other year. Hydro Designs out of Brookfield will be doing the inspections starting in spring.

**E. Date & Time for Next Meeting.**

Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Item #5 – Monthly DPW Report.

**A. Discuss/Recommend Snow Removal by Property Owners Ordinance.**

Vern recommended that with us being right in the middle of winter it may make more sense for the snow removal ordinance to be revisited this summer and in place for next winter. Vern read the current ordinance. Ron Guse reported that some people are lax in following the ordinance. We currently have about 15-25 habitual offenders. Right now there is no fine/penalty for people not to shovel. When they do not comply with the ordinance, the city comes in and shovels and the property owner pays us. There was some discussion as to raising the fee from \$75/hour to \$150/hour. Currently the public works department doesn't have enough manpower to do all the

shoveling for people that don't comply. With the other ordinance that was presented at the last meeting there would also be a penalty charged. Motion by Ald. Liebenow, second by Ald. Voss to table until August Public Works meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Vern also handed out a report that shows the salt expenditures for 2007-2008. We currently have \$18,000 left in the salt budget. This will be put on the agenda for next month for further discussion.

**B. Discuss/Recommend Engineering Costs for Dam Projects.**

Vern reported that the DNR recently inspected the lower and upper dams. They do the inspections every 10 years. The plan is to consolidate the engineering costs for both dams. Vern reviewed the engineering project costs he received from Kunkel Engineering Group. Vern recommended that the contract is awarded to Kunkel Engineering for the project. There was a discussion as to if any other firms were contacted for a quote. Vern explained that Kunkel has had a long history with working on our dams and it would take other companies a lot of time and money to get up to speed. The DNR is mandating this work get done. Vern expressed that we had budgeted money in the capital improvements plan for these projects however all capital borrowing was froze for this year. Shelley stated that the easiest would be to do a borrowing from the State Trust Fund since we would get the lowest interest rate and we wouldn't have to involve Ehler's & Associates. We can get the paperwork from the State and can choose from a 5, 10, or 15 year borrowing. Motion by Ald. Voss, second by Ald. Liebenow to recommend item to finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #6 - Adjournment.

Motion by Liebenow, second by Voss to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Kathie Wild, City Clerk