

## **Amberley Village Council – Streets, Public Utilities, and Sewer Committee Minutes August 26, 2019**

In Attendance: R. Warren (Chair), E. Hattenbach (Member), S. Lahrmer, T. Muething, N. Wolf, W. Brown, T. Chesney, J. Haarman, D. Marshall, and F. Twehues

The meeting was brought to order.

The minutes from the July 30, 2019 meeting were distributed and accepted.

There were four agenda items: Electric aggregation program for the Village, 2019 Storm Sewer Program, Section Road crosswalk safety, and the 2019-20 Road Salt Purchase.

**Electric Aggregation.** The Village's energy consultant is now Affordable Gas & Electric (AGE) represented by Mr. Haarman. AGE purchased Eagle Energy, represented by Mr. Marshall. The Village is part of a consortium with 7 other municipalities to provide competitive/better rates than Duke. The Village is now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 3 year contract with IGS. The contract is set to expire in August, 2020. The current rate is \$0.052 per Kw-hr. The Green power rate is \$0.054. Rates have been declining and are now below \$0.05 (green power being slightly greater, see attachment incorporated by reference). With approval of a resolution to authorize the Village Manager to enter into an agreement for the purchase of electricity for the Village's electricity aggregation program, AGE will proceed with an RFP to secure the best electricity rate for a period of 12-36 months. Assuming IGS has the best offer, we may initiate the contract prior to August, 2020. Mr. Hattenbach moved that the Committee recommend to Council to approve the said resolution. Mr. Warren seconded and the motion carried 2-0.

**Storm Water Program Update.** As discussed last month, bidding for the work on Fair Oaks Dr. (south of Section Rd.) and Farmacres Dr. was opened on July 31. Several bids were submitted from 6 vendors that ranged in cost from \$56,400 to \$86,350 (see attachment incorporated by reference). Mr. Twehues, the Village engineer from CT Consultants, reviewed the proposals and found the low bidder, Adleta, Inc. to be qualified to perform the work. This bid was less than the engineer's estimate of \$73,656. Mr. Hattenbach moved that the Committee recommend to Council to approve Adleta to perform the storm water projects at a cost of \$56,400. Mr. Warren seconded and the motion carried 2-0.

**Section Road Crosswalk.** Following urgency from Chief Wallace to improve pedestrian safety at the Section Rd and Farmacres Dr crosswalk, the village engineer, Mr. Twehues, recommended several improvements that should make motorists more aware of the crosswalk. These include a pedestrian activated flashing yellow light (approx. cost of \$16-18,000), street lights on the north and south sides of the crosswalk (approx. cost of \$5-6,000), and resurfacing Section Rd that would include thermoplastic and glass reflective materials on 250 feet on the west to east approach to the crosswalk and the east to west approach to the crosswalk (approx. cost of \$16-18,000). The third proposal would be coordinated with a street rehab project. To respect the Jewish Sabbath and Holidays, the flashing yellow light would be programmed to be on for the duration of these times. Mr.

Muething suggested that the Village approach Safe Cincinnati for potential funding. Mr. Warren expressed reservations with these proposals. If motorists do not respect crosswalks in general, placing stop signs should be considered. The cost would be considerably less and motorists recognize and respect stop signs. Independent of any change, Mr. Twehues shared that pedestrians must remain vigilant. Additionally, a traffic study (pedestrian and vehicular) would have to be conducted to justify stop signs. The study would include the Jewish Sabbath. For next steps, the Village Manager will update Rabbis Weinreb (Congregation Zichron Eliezer) and Goldschmidt (Congregation Shaarei Torah), whose congregations are most effected by this crosswalk. The Village Manager will also inquire about funding from Safe Cincinnati. Additional discussion regarding this will continue at our next Committee meeting.

**Road Salt:** The Village does not bid on its own for road salt, but is part of a consortium of several jurisdictions. In this way the Village can secure better pricing. For last year and this year we are part of Hamilton County which is leading the bid for several other jurisdictions. The cost this year (\$89.66 per ton from Cargill) is considerably more than last year (\$78.46). The Village currently has ~1200 tons on hand which is more than we typically use in a season. The proposal from Mr. Chesney is to purchase 1000 tons with a guaranteed minimum of 800 tons (80%). The Committee felt that we should make an attempt to reduce the volume to a guaranteed minimum of 400 tons (pricing would extend to 500 tons). Mr. Chesney shared that most jurisdictions have considerable salt in stock, which could possibly be available to the Village if needed, although not guaranteed. If not available we would pay Cargill, the salt supplier, at a 'spot rate'. Mr. Hattenbach recommended that Mr. Chesney should attempt to reduce the guaranteed purchase of salt from 800 to 400 tons and that Council should approve the purchase of road salt. Mr. Warren seconded and the motion carried 2-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ray Warren