

MINUTES

City of Norwich, Water Commission

September 16, 2020

Present; Comm. D. Wilson, Comm. G. Baas, Comm. T. Bresina

Also Present; E. Pepe

Absent; Comm. J. Kelly, Chairman J. Drelich

The meeting was opened by Comm. D. Wilson at 6:30 pm.

A motion to approve minutes of November 20, 2019 was made by Comm. D. Wilson and seconded by Comm. G. Baas, all Ayes approve.

Visitors; None

Correspondence; None

Old Business; None

New Business;

1. Tree Removal at Chenango Lake – A resident at Chenango Lake requested the City remove a rotting tree on City property. The Water Commission discussed if/what liability the city had if the tree fell and damaged private property that was located on city property. The Water Commission suggested we discuss with the City attorney.
2. Sale of Water Dept. property at Pires garden shop – Pires approached the City and is interested in purchasing City property located adjacent to the rear of their shop on Route 12. The parcel is located on Magistro Lane. Supt. Pepe met with the owner of Pires to discuss. During the meeting, Supt. Pepe stated that he would consider the sale of only half of the parcel because the City still needed regular access to part of the parcel. This was acceptable to the owner of Pires. The Water Commissioners were amenable to the transfer. A motion was made by Comm. D. Wilson to consider the sale of the property after the parcel is split into two, seconded by Comm. T. Bresina, all ayes approve.
3. WWTP Nutrient removal Study – Supt. Pepe provided an update on the status of the project. The City had issued Request for Qualifications to procure engineering services due October 2. The City was also working on completing the required paperwork for the EFC engineering planning grant.
4. Lead service Line. Supt. Pepe provided an update on the status of the project. The City has provided all documents to enter into an agreement with the NYSDOH. The city is now awaiting

on approval of the documents from the NYSDOH. This project will provide grant money for the replacement of lead service lines in the City.

5. Water Meter replacements - Supt. Pepe provided an update on the status of the project. The water meters in the city are 20 or more years old. The current meters are outdated technology, and the City has been researching new technologies to replace the water meters. New technologies that appear to be the most promising are ultrasonic and electromagnetic. The City is requesting propagation studies and budgetary quotes from several manufacturers.
6. Potential of wireless antenna mounted on Dunn Dr. Tank. – Supt. Pepe made the Commission aware of a private company that wants to locate an antenna on top of Dunn Dr. water tank to provide wireless internet service to South Plymouth. Supt. Pepe spoke with the company to make sure the frequency would not interfere with the water departments frequency. It was determined that the internet wireless frequency would not interfere with the Cities communications. Supt. Pepe also reached out to the Dept. of Health to see if they had any concerns. They said they were fine with the plan as long as the antenna mounting did not pierce the envelope of the tank. Supt. Pepe stated the City would need to have a legally binding contract so that we could not get sued for anything as a result of allowing the antenna and maintenance of the antenna. Comm. G. Baas made a motion to allow the company to install the antenna as long as it was engineered properly and the City get fairly compensated, seconded by Comm. D. Wilson, all ayes approve.
7. Chenango Lake Shoreline Property – The City of Norwich owns the shoreline property on the west side of the lake. Supt. Pepe asked the Water Commission about their thoughts on potentially selling the shoreline property. He stated that it is just a thought at this time for the sake of discussion. The reason the City owns the shoreline is to provide watershed protection. But he stated that the City only owns less than ½ of the lake shoreline. Also, the City has had longstanding relationships with the adjacent homeowners that they can use the City property for their own use, such as decks and buildings. They also mow and landscape the City property. Because the City has allowed this to happen as past practice, the City would not likely be able to do anything on that property to improve water quality such as ban mowing and allowing the shoreline to go back into a more natural state by allowing a natural vegetative bufferzone to grow. He said if the City sold the property, he would recommend a clause that the homeowners still have to follow all the watershed rules and regulations, existing building codes, and allow for septic tank inspections. Comm. G. Baas stated another option could be giving the homeowners easements to access the City property so the City maintains ownership.
8. Commission members – We discussed the fact that after Commissioner Winans resigned we are down to 5 commissioners. The Commission is made up of 7 members. So we are two commissioners short of a full commission. Also, we need to vote on a new chairman/woman.

Adjournment; Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. Next meeting is October 21, 2020.