

## Utilities Committee Minutes for February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Call to Order at 6:06 p.m.

Attendance: Gerald, Maggie, Kimberly, Sonia, Fred

Staff: Richard, Jason, Jake

Visitors: Scott Lynch from DEMEC

Minutes from January were accepted by Maggie and Seconded by Fred

Capital Projects Update from Public Works: The Lake Como Dam repair has a contractor and a contract has been signed with an estimated start date of mid-March because of parts. The new North Duck Creek Water Tower has started construction. The East Commerce Sewer project is 95% complete. Lake Como Woods pipe repairs are complete and Public Works is waiting on CCTV cameras for storm water drains. Bergmont Woods is also waiting on CCTV inspection. Ashland has been waiting on the developer since November and Public Works has stopped offering yard meters and suspended all yard meter requests because of the waiting list for meters.

24-Month Good Faith Deposit Returns: The town's policy on deposits is being sent to Charter and Ordinance Review for March so that proper protocol is followed on whether or not to return deposits to accounts in good standing.

Electric Circuit Upgrade: The town is in need of upgrading overloaded circuits in order to prevent outages and adequately supply power to customers. Working with finance in order to discuss financing the project. The upgrade only buys time for the overloaded circuits but does not account for future construction and expansion.

Review of 2023 Committee Goals: Making sure that the town's website is consistent with policy from the town as well as being regularly updated with changes to town ordinances, and securing funding for capital projects.

Presentation from Scott Lynch: Scott came to the committee to represent DEMEC in a smart meter proposal for the town, American Municipal Power which is a group like DEMEC only larger and with more members has a meter with an advanced outage detection system that will decrease the duration of power outages and strain on the grid, GRIP grants or Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership grants can help fund up to 50% of this kind of upgrade but the application needs to be submitted before a certain day, this system would be able to integrate with our existing billing system, the head of Public Works (Jason) would like more answers

on the implementation of AMI as far as manpower and installation and will be meeting with Scott and the other department heads, DEMEC will need a direction from council before March in order to apply for GRIP grants. The committee recommends that council move forward with town staff on what would be needed to make a change to AMI and how it would impact the community.

Next Meeting: March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:49 p.m.