

## **Skyline City Council Minutes**

**December 12, 2011**

**Attendance:** Mayor Mike Kluck, Council Members - Travis Javens, Samantha Erickson, Dean Rengstorf, Clerk Cathy Dahl; Fire Chief Roger Hermanson

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

### **Public Open Forum:**

No forum

### **Approval of December 12, 2011 agenda**

Motion to approve agenda, Samantha Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Travis Javens. Passed unanimously.

### **Approval of November 14, 2011 minutes**

Motion to approve minutes Travis Javens, 2<sup>nd</sup> Samantha Erickson. Passed unanimously.

### **City Clerk Report:**

Photography by Nicole Fischer is available to hang in City Hall and offices. The city council would like to use the artwork with installation by city clerk and Nicole Fischer.

Received survey from League of MN cities. Mayor Kluck will take care of fiscal survey from League of MN cities.

Clerk Cathy Dahl will pick up a wireless mouse and paper for printer and set up email addresses with Hickory Tech.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lon Whitehead absent, Mayor Mike Kluck went over Lon's report.

With changes in MN property tax statements and taxes going up, it is difficult to know if the City of Skyline will receive more in income from this.

Budget has to be finalized at next council meeting in January.

Motion to approve City Clerk report, Samantha Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Travis Javens. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Treasurer Report, with addition of Pfferer tree bill, Dean Rengstorf, 2<sup>nd</sup> Samantha Erickson. Passed unanimously.

## **Water Department:**

Samantha Erickson discussed issues with readings used for billing and possibility of residents putting sump pump water into sewer system. Samantha spoke with Tim at the MN Valley Testing Lab. He is having extreme difficulty getting a reading in Skyline. During the day, the flow is so low that his probe continues to plug with solids. He became so concerned that he pulled his probe for fear of plugging the sewer line. He has no data to report to us because it will not read which also means we have no bill at this time. He also does not have any flow readings from a water event which would tell us if we are having sump pumps going into the sewer. Tim from MVTL sent a follow-up email to Samantha after their conversation:

As a follow up I believe that the meter we would install would provide some very good data, however, with the high solids coming from the City it will need some babysitting. So the City would have two options. Option one would be for the City to maintain the meter for approximately ten days and then MVTL would do a data download and calibration verification. Option two would be for MVTL to make approximately two trips per week to check the meter for fouling with the City having no responsibility. The meter rents for \$600 per month. Our per trip charge would be \$175.00. As I indicated to you in our phone conversation the meters that we install are meant for temporary installation not to be a permanent solution. The City will at some point need to discuss the installation of a permanent flow monitor.

Tim needs someone to check/clean the probe approximately 2 times a week. Mike Erickson will do the temporary testing with the help of someone else. Temporary readings are necessary because of our agreement with Mankato to do so; another reason is because of 2 bad readings that bumped up the Skyline billing too high. We haven't had any rain to find out if people are pumping their sumps into the system. Tim would like us to have the water tower meter calibrated to make sure we are accurate in the water being used in a day. Eventually, we need to do a house to house search to find and correct houses pumping sump water into sewer system. Fines should be assessed and homes rechecked.

Samantha will research ordinances for residents behind in their water bills. The council requests a list of past due water bills at every meeting.

## **Street Department**

Dean Rengstorf reported on Shostag easement broken pipe drainage issue. Contractor showed up to look but never followed through. Heyn was too busy and it is too late in the year now to pursue. Resident would prefer no back hoe used on property, but will accept if no other option.

No complaints with first snow plowing of the season. This will be watched closely as season goes on. Dean talked with company about not having iced over areas.

## **Parks Department**

Travis Javens got the tennis nets taken down. Replacing park signs – Travis suggested using recycled plastic deck board. He would purchase and cut to size, then take to Sign Pro for routing. He will get pricing for product and routing for future discussion. Possibly the Skyline Coop Association through Willard Vetter will purchase and donate Vetter Stone sign for Vetter Park.

## **Public Safety**

Rebecca Carpenter absent - no report. Information for residents to call Xcel Energy themselves for problems with street lights was put in the city newsletter.

Roger will be going to Chiefs meeting 12/13. Air compressor will be ready to go this week. Key pad was installed. Pull rope will be installed to open garage door for fire truck if electricity goes out.

Motion to approve departmental as read, Travis Javens, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dean Rengstorf, Passed unanimously.

## **Old business:**

New quote for generator: Kunkel gave quote of \$7500 for generator; a 20KW will run. I will cost approximately \$20,000 total for setting up. Should at least have enough power to keep water going. Samantha Erickson reported Brian Powers suggested reserving generator for rental when needed. Wiring would be needed at both city hall and pump house. Discussion that rental may not work in a crisis. Minimum of \$30,000 for both locations, up to \$40,000. There is time to look for grant money from a variety of sources.

BE County Hazard Mitigation Plan needs to be done soon, by January meeting. Mike will look into this. This is also a possible source of grant money for generator(s).

2012 budget preliminary discussion. Mayor will talk to county assessor to determine amount of tax money Skyline will be receiving. Budget will be finalized at January council meeting.

Resident water and sewer rates will be discussed at a January meeting when Lon will be back.

## **New business**

Travis was wondering if we are using our new siren to its potential. Possibly chime at 6 PM every evening for a Skyline tradition.

Discussion of a projector and screen in city hall for the computer to shine up onto wall. Travis will check into prices.

Motion to adjourn Samantha Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dean Rengstorf. Passed unanimously.

No further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Cathy Dahl

Skyline City Clerk