

The Village of Dunkirk Board of Public Affairs met in regular session on February 12, 2024. All members present. Motion by Drake to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Barnett and passed 3-0.

Guests: Several residents were present regarding concerns with legislation presented to council. Halsey first spoke by informing the people that this document had never been sent to the board of public affairs to review, and it was prematurely presented to council. Next, she explained that the purpose of the legislation was for a lead abatement and water line project that is taking place within the village. She said it was brought to their attention by RCAP and the engineers that the current ordinance had no mention of meters being placed on private property or that the meters themselves remain the property of the village, with authority to inspect/repair said meters and the lines there attached. Halsey also made sure everyone knew that there is no cost to the residents for this project. Councilwoman Crowe spoke up and stated that the board is lying to them and that any time the town doesn't have money they pass it on to the people. Halsey stated that there is a grant that will pay for all the lead abatement on the residents' side of the meter as well as the new waterlines. At this time FO Spencer spoke up and explained to the people how this project came about and ran through a quick timeline so everyone was on the same page. Mayor Cramer did speak up and state that the solicitor shared the ordinance knowing it was of urgency, and we honestly weren't aware it would be worded as it was. From there Halsey explained why the town was split the way it was, explaining that while the lead abatement was the main purpose of the grant, there were pressure issues on the East End of Patterson Street that had to be addressed for safety reasons. She stated that the board is doing their best to fix things for this village. Resident Jason Kohli asked if the edited version would be passed if the residents are still against it. Halsey responded that it would likely delay the project and they would lose the grant funding that they have at this time. Resident Charles Amweg asked why, if the project has been going on for so long, were they just getting the legislation going. FO Spencer responded that January 22nd of 2024 was the first they learned of the need for this legislation addition. It was also brought up that there is another part to follow, it will be legislation for the lead abatement part of the project, and there will be a consent form that will be presented to each resident where lead is found. This gives the contractor permission to perform the abatement from the meter clear up to the home's foundation.

Fiscal Officer's Report: Reports presented included a 2024 roster and committee list for each member, January month end reports - payment and receipt listings, and fund status. She also presented a 2024 rate sheet to each member, the 2023 annual reports for treated and lost water figures, water cost per 1000 gallons, annual chlorine and salt costs. Lastly, she presented the 2023 kilowatt usage for the lagoons and lift stations for Superintendent Hackworth's review. Next FO Spencer informed the board that she had heard from Cindy Brookes of RCAP earlier in the day about a new grant program for GIS mapping. Spencer was to ask if the board was interested in this program, noting that at this time it is for water but that sewer will soon be included as well, and eventually storm sewers. All board members agreed that they would like Brookes to apply for the GIS mapping grants. Spencer will make contact and have her proceed with the grant application. Lastly, Spencer discussed a few leaks that have been discovered and are being repaired. She is hoping to have meters read the week of February 20 so the adjustments can be approved on the meeting of the 26th and included with the bills when sent.

Halsey informed the residents in attendance that their next water bill will have the final of a five-year, five-step, rate increase plan. FO Spencer explained that one loan is no longer in need of the "Water Debt" portion on the water bills, and therefore they have redirected that amount to begin covering the needed increase for this lead & waterline project. FO Spencer added that with three separate five-year rate programs having taken place, and that redirect, there will be no need for another rate increase for several years. She did add that it could change if something catastrophic took place. Resident George Jarrell asked why, if he only uses 3000 gallons, does he have to pay for 4000.

Halsey informed him that the minimum bill is for 0 - 4000 gallons. It was also explained that all surrounding villages included in the past rate surveys include a their own 'minimum' fee either by gallons or cubic yards.

Superintendent Hackworth informed the board that he was increasing his labor and equipment usage by \$5.00 an hour. Councilwoman Crowe questioned his authority to do such a thing without first presenting it to council for approval. It was explained that as a private contractor he is able to do this. Next Hackworth discussed the lagoon project stating that he has changed the vault to fiberglass rather than concrete for the purpose of being better able to access if there are issues down the road. Hackworth announced that Peterson construction would be in the village on February 20th. Barnett asked Hackworth when AEP was going to set the location for the pad. At this time, that is still unknown.

Next president Halsey reviewed the ordinance draft line by line while providing explanations and even examples to help the residents understand what the legislation was saying. The residents were very helpful and participated in helping edit the legislation. With everyone content with the edits, FO Spencer will prepare a cleaned up version of edits to the solicitor for him to prepare the new draft. Halsey thanked the residents for coming to the meeting and participating in the process. Kohli asked if the residents would have an option to view the updated version prior to the council meeting. FO Spencer stated that she would let the solicitor know it was needed ahead of Tuesday's meeting. She would post it on the village's website, with a note on both forum pages stating it is there and include the village's website link. At this time Councilwoman Crowe apologized to everyone on the board as she was unaware that they had not seen the legislation, and thought they had approved it as it was written. She also thanked them for reviewing it as they just did.

Motion by Drake, to approve bills as presented. Second by Barnett, roll call 3-0:

ACE HARDWARE	PORTABLE LIGHT STAND	\$1876.97
ALLOWAY	TESTING	\$ 284.00
BADGER METER	MONTHLY HOSTING	\$ 23.28
TOM DILTS JR	COMPUTER TOWER/LABOR	\$1007.58
EJ PRESCOTT	MISC SUPPLIES	\$ 716.43
ML TECH	CHLORINE	\$ 580.00
SHELDON GAS	PLANT/GENERATOR	\$ 399.96

PROJECTS:

POWER LINE SUPPLY	TRANSFORMER PAD SET UP	\$2958.75
VERDANTAS	ENGINEERING-LEAD SVC/WATERLINE	\$3012.50

PAYROLL AND LIABILITIES

Motion to adjourn by Drake, second by Barnett. Roll call 3-0.

BPA President

Fiscal Officer