

Safety, Health, and Service

November 14, 2016

The Safety, Health, and Service committee met at 6:30 PM. The following committee members were present, Rob Maurer, Dean Holland, and alternate Dean Holland. Also in attendance were Mayor Day, Ron McAbier, Darrin Lautenschleger, John Zucal, Cheryl Ramos, Julie Courtright, Sam Hitchcock, Aimee May, Marvin Fete, and Greg Popham. Committee member Kelly Ricklic was excused.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss water and sewer rates. Service Director Ron McAbier is requesting council accept his recommendation and increase water by \$1.25 per month and sewer \$1.35 per month for the minimum water amount users. Higher water users would also see an increase set forth in the recommendations by Quicksall and Assoc. The minimum water user would affect around 51% of the residents.

McAbier stated that problems are creeping up and upgrades are needed. He estimated it would take 3-4 million dollars to adequately cover the needed future upgrades. Water line breaks take an estimated 1-2 hours to fix and with rusted bolts and frozen valves it can easily take 3-4 hours. Exercising the valves would help but they do not have the manpower to do so. He estimated that a lot of water lines and infrastructure was at least 85 years old.

McAbier felt that if rates were accepted by council, it could be 6-7 years before another increase would be asked for. The last rate increase for water was 2009 and sewer was 2012. He would like to see this go into effect 1-1-2017, however, it wouldn't be seen on residents bills until February 2017.

Councilwoman Cheryl Ramos asked if the increase would save on manpower. McAbier felt that in 2 years, we could possibly reduce the staff by one. Ramos also questioned a 2009 audit and McAbier said he could not comment because he wasn't service director at the time.

Councilman John Zucal had some discomfort about legislation and the fact we were not dealing with outside rates in the same meeting. Maurer explained that they were 2 separate assignments and we could discuss as any other matter that comes before the committee.

Law Director Marvin Fete felt that they were two separate issues and would prefer to draft a separate piece of legislation.

Committee member Darrin Lautenschleger made a motion to have Law Director draw up proper legislation/resolution to accept recommendation #2 by Quicksall and pass on 3rd reading. Mr Holland seconded. Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Maurer to adjourn at 6:58

Rob Maurer

