

Mary Lou McFadden brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Works Department Heads present:

Tom Dolph / Streets Superintendent, Greg Parrish / Water Superintendent

Public Works Committee members present:

Mary Lou McFadden (chair), Laurel Kuczynski, Don Reinke, Rick Remijas, John Wall, Ernie Summers (Scott Popp and Dan Tannis were absent)

Others present: Chief Swistek, Town Administrator

Approval of August 1st Meeting Minutes

Ernie S. made motion to approve; John W. 2nd / all in favor

Water Department Field Report (Greg Parrish)

- Back in June, Long Beach Water had PFA testing done on our water system. This test was ordered and funded through IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management) at no cost to Long Beach. We are still waiting on results.
- Greg had the booster station painted this summer; he will also be replacing its wall-mounted heating and cooling unit. Dye Plumbing & Heating in LaPorte will be giving a quote on a new unit.
- Greg is getting quotes for a retaining wall at the water tower; the erosion problem on the hillside is causing sand to come down onto the street. He's checked with Woodruffs but will get additional quotes.
- The Water Department had its annual water audit; only 3 or 4 meters came into question. They have been inspected and repaired.
- Compliance with IDEM's new requirement for property owners (who have irrigation systems and/or pools with auto-fill devices) to send passing backflow preventer tests annually to the Water Department has been going well. Regular communication with contractors who are certified to do the testing, and getting the word out to both commercial and residential account holders (through mailings, notices on the monthly utility billing, and individual contacts with customers with seasonally-high meter reads) has helped us to achieve excellent first-year compliance. Mary Lou added that residents who irrigate with Lake Clare water, or from well-water, are not required to do the annual backflow tests.
- End of season water shut-offs have begun and locates are still numerous.

Water Department Old Business (Greg Parrish)

Mary Lou invited Greg to continue with the Department's old business.

Lake Shore Drive upgrades have been put on temporary hold after meeting with Haas Engineering. However, Greg has been purchasing parts for the project and keeping them in storage. Supply chain issues have made this process more challenging; prices are changing regularly and quotes are generally good only one day at a time. However, after getting the lion's share of parts in stock, estimating the cost of the project should be more straightforward and make the bidding process easier. John Wall added that, currently, alternative funding sources / grants may be available; he will keep us informed.

Streets Department Old Business (Tom Dolph)

- Regarding 2022 CCMG grant – should hear by first week in October.
- Stop 17 drainage project is ongoing; Haas Engineering is working their solution to it.
- Regarding Stop 18 access, the walkway has been extended and the drainage is now good.
- Stop 28 is landscaped and completed; looks good.

Streets Department New Business (Tom Dolph)

Fall leaf removal is being planned. Healy's Landscaping is expected to do the work again this year.

Public Works New Business (Mary Lou McFadden)

1) Public Works Board Members

Don Reinke did not receive the email that went out regarding seats on the Public Works Board. He has since put his name in; Town Council will vote on the 5-member board at 10/10/22 meeting.

2) Billing property owners of vacant lots

Mary Lou raised this issue to ask for discussion and comments from the committee. She had recently explained our policy regarding billing customers who own a vacant lot (with an existing water tap) for a new resident who had expressed concern about charges he had received. Greg Parrish had also talked with this customer. Greg suggested to Mary Lou that it may also be time to review the tap policy as it relates to vacant lots and opening new accounts. Another related issue is Town's intention to begin charging for stormwater utility and fire protection fees for all vacant lots.

Because of all these questions, Mary Lou contacted Karl Cender of Cender & Associates (Town's municipal finance advisors) to review how Karl had advised Long Beach in the past on these issues. Karl agreed that, with a new ordinance in place, Town could begin to charge property owners for stormwater and fire protection services for all vacant lots and review if/when to add other charges.

During the committee's discussion, Laurel K. suggested that charging for leaf pickup should also be added in to vacant lot charges. John Wall asked for clarification about which lots were in question, and he then said that anyone who owns a vacant lot in Long Beach should be charged just like everyone else. After John stated his opinion, dropping only the Water Department's base rate charge when billing these customers was suggested; John did not agree with that.

Thus, the suggested total to be billed to property owners of vacant lots ranged from \$17.78 to \$99.71. Mary Lou and Karl Cender had talked about only charging \$17.68 for stormwater and fire protection; Laurel's suggestion of adding leaf pickup would increase that to \$27.68; John Wall's suggestion was to charge all Town/Water services @ \$99.71; dropping only the Water Department's base charge would lower the amount to \$67.90.

The topic was eventually tabled until we had opportunity to find out billing practices of other nearby communities and also for Mary Lou to follow up again with Karl.

Water Department New Business (Lynne)

Lynne presented details of payment and billing adjustments made 08.01.22 – 09.21.22 and made four requests for late charge reversals. Mary Lou made a motion that Lynne be allowed to reverse late fee when USPS has not delivered someone's bill. Laurel 2nd it. All in favor.

Anything from the floor

Anita Remijas asked for clarification regarding backflow preventer inspections being an annual requirement. She wanted to know how we plan to enforce it. There is an ordinance that details enforcement for non-compliance. Anita wanted to ask that Town enforce it.

Anita also said that information regarding any comparisons with other towns should be accurate.

Motion to Adjourn: Mary Lou adjourned the meeting at 9:37.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2022 @ 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Conlon