

**Public Works Committee Meeting  
Monday, September 16, 2024  
Red Bud City Hall  
Council Chambers (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

Committee Members Present: Curt Guebert, Ben Schwartzkopf, Mike Rheinecker, Bill Hanebutt, Kyle Donjon

Committee Members Absent: None

Council Members Present: Jeremy DeMond, Rodney Nevois, Alan Piel

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mayor Susan Harbaugh, City Attorney Rick Cooper, City Superintendent Josh Eckart, Code Admin./City Engineer Jeff Mueller, Police Chief John Brittingham, Admin. Officer Jill Landgraf, Finance Officer Liz Cowell, City Clerk Joanne Cowell

Committee Chairman Guebert called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

Old Business

**I. Power Plant**

**A. Plant Report**

Nothing to report other than regular scheduled generation runs.

**II. Utilities/Streets**

**A. Electric**

Nothing to report

**B. Gas**

Nothing to report

**C. Water**

Nothing to report

**D. Sewer**

Nothing to report

**E. Streets**

Superintendent Eckart is working on updating the bags and brush policies. There are issues with tree trimming companies not disposing of their brush from the worksite.

**III. Utility Rate Studies**

**A. Electric**

Superintendent Eckart and Liz Cowell have a meeting with Utility Financial Solutions, LLC on October 1<sup>st</sup> for an electric rate study.

**B. Water & Sewer - IRWA**

Superintendent Eckart is meeting with Illinois Rural Water on September 20<sup>th</sup> to continue with the water and sewer study. The initial report shows a significant deficit in the water rate. IRWA is using the 2023 figures because of the grant money received in 2024. This is ongoing.

New Business

**I. Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes – Meeting August 19, 2024**

*Recommendation made by Committee Chairman Guebert, seconded by Committee Member Rheinecker to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2024, meeting. Carried*

**II. Authorization to Obtain Bids for Replacement Backhoe and/or Investigate Lease Options**

*Recommendation made by Committee Chairman Guebert, seconded by Committee Member Hanebutt, to authorize approval to obtain bids and investigate lease options for replacement of the backhoe. Carried*

**III. Proposal from SealMaster St. Louis – New Paint Sprayer**

*Recommendation made by Committee Chairman Guebert, seconded by Committee Member Donjon, to authorize approval to accept the proposal from SealMaster to purchase a new paint sprayer, NTE \$8,970. Carried*

**IV. Metro-Ag, Inc. Contract – Sludge Removal**

*Recommendation made by Committee Chairman Guebert, seconded by Committee Member Hanebutt, to authorize approval to accept the agreement with Metro-Ag, Inc. for land applied sludge removal, effective October 7, 2024 – December 31, 2025, @ \$0.07 per gallon. Carried*

**V. Public Comments/Anything for the Good of the City**

Eckart noted that the end of probationary period for Hunter Bauer (October 2, 2024) and Bob Zipfel (October 9, 2024) will be on the council agenda for approval. Hunter Bauer will also be due a step increase of \$2.50/hour, effective the first full pay period, following the council meeting.

Nevois questioned the well operations at the river. Eckart said that both wells are operational, and he is working with the insurance company for reimbursement. The wells are currently being run alternately about every two weeks, but not running both at the same time. Eckart is looking at a maintenance contract with Layne Christensen. Eckart will check with an engineer to help determine if the city needs to start budgeting for replacement of the wells. He also needs to check on the lease agreement.

Donjon questioned where the city is at regarding the painting of the water towers. Eckart said it is a project on which he is working.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne G. Cowell, City Clerk  
Red Bud, Illinois