

SEWER AND WATER COMMISSION MEETING  
BERLIN, WISCONSIN

April 29, 2020

DUE TO THE CONTINUED CONCERN SURROUNDING COVID-19, THE CITY OF BERLIN IS  
TEMPORARILY TRANSITIONING THEIR PUBLIC MEETINGS TO A TELECONFERENCE FORMAT,  
VIA ZOOM

Roethel called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. Present – Commissioners Roethel, Dewhurst, Youngbauer, Bending and Erdmann. Absent – none.

Also, present was Jim Lehr, Lindsey Kemnitz, Jodie Olson, Kristina Boeck, Supt. Malnory and Peggy LaBuda.

The next item on the agenda was minutes from the February 26, 2020 Meeting. Youngbauer moved to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2020 Meeting. Erdmann seconded the motion, which was carried by voice vote.

The next item on the agenda was the vouchers for February and March. Youngbauer moved to approve the vouchers between #15074 through #15150. Erdmann seconded the motion, which was carried by voice vote.

The next item on the agenda was public appearances/correspondence. Of which, we had no correspondence or public appearances.

The next item on the agenda was Old Business. Of which, we had none.

The next item on the agenda was New Business. Of which, we had none.

The next item on the agenda was presentation of cost data pertaining to reinstating fluoride into the water system as requested by a previous Commissioner, Charlie Beard, at a prior meeting. Supt. Malnory had included cost estimates for the Commission to review if they determined they wanted to reinstate fluoride in the future. Commissioner Erdmann spoke and indicated that in thinking this thing through, he finds that most of our water coming from city wells is used for bathing, sprinkling flowers and washing cars and everything else. He noted recent medical tests indicating that fluoride affects the thyroid in older people. If that was the case, he questioned the importance of fluoride on the thyroid to kids with baby teeth. Erdmann stated he was thinking we don't need it because the cost of taking care of thyroid is a lot more than kids having a few cavities filled. He also questioned if fluorinating was that important, why are we the only ones doing it around here. Erdmann indicated that most of the school kids aren't from the city, but from the country. Also, people are predominantly drinking bottled water, so he felt that it was not to the city's advantage to go back to fluorinating. Roethel noted

that this was not really meant to be a discussion on the issue of fluoride or no fluoride, but thanked Erdmann for his comments.

Roethel indicated that he didn't know if we were even going to consider putting fluoride back in, but Commissioner Beard had requested this information so it was provided to the Commission. Malnory confirmed that this is the information Beard had requested. Roethel stated no action was necessary as the decision to stop fluorinating was made some months ago and that is where we are at this point unless any of the commissioners have any other questions about this item. There was no further discussion.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion on dissolved oxygen probes at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Malnory stated that he received 3 different prices, we are mainly concerned with Option A for the dissolved oxygen probes which are currently outdated and we had one fail that we cannot get parts for. He also stated that the cost was more expensive than we thought. Malnory stated that the YSI one has the better warranty. Roethel moved to direct Brian to do what he thinks is best and proceed that way, which was okayed by all of the other commissioners.

The next item on the agenda was the superintendent report.

- Update on Street Projects – Malnory stated that the Preconstruction meeting for Webster Street and N. Kossuth Street to N. Washington Street was held on Thursday, April 2, 2020. The projects will consist of full reconstruction of utilities for main line water and services to property line and main line sewer and laterals to property line. Wood Sewer & Excavation Inc. will be the general contractor and the project is estimated to start the end of May and be done the middle of November.
- Update on Ripon Road – Malnory stated that the sewer main line replacement and laterals on Ripon Road from S. Swetting Street to South Road are being done by Don E. Parker. We plan on repairing the sewer mains and laterals in that area before the State does the Road Restoration work on Ripon Road from Highway 49 to Forest Ridge Road.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 27, 2020.

Roethel adjourned the meeting.

Peggy LaBuda  
Secretary