

Trash Collection Bids Opening
 08/08/2019
 Opening – 6:45 pm

Mayor announced there was only 1 closed bid submitted for trash collection which he proceeded to open which revealed Rumpke’s bid of \$12.36 per unit. Trash collection renewal contract would begin in October of 2019 and expire in September of 2020. Drew Watson spoke on possible recycling fees to be discussed at a later date. He stated he would have documentation by the end of August that would not be submitted as a formal bid, but as a proposal. Meeting concluded at 6:55 pm.

Regular Council Meeting
 08/08/2019
 7:00 PM
 Municipal Building

Gary Bauer, Don Gephart, Chad Hollon, Reilly Hopkins, Richard Simpson and Cindy Sutton were present. Mayor John Carman presided over the meeting.

Mayor stated there were revisions to the agenda: 1) Under Guest Speakers, add *C. Phil Blankenship*; 2) Under New Business add *G. Resolution 2019.025* and *H. Resolution 2019.026* and strike *D. Resolution 2019.022*.

BAUER/GEFHART: Motion to accept agenda with revisions. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 07/11/19 were presented to Council.

HOLLON/GEFHART: Motion to approve minutes from 07/11/19 as presented. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/ADJUSTMENTS

Bills were presented to Council. Turning Council’s attention to #23 on the list, Reilly expressed concern about the large gasoline expense. Adjustments were also presented to Council.

ADJUSTMENTS 08/08/2019			
FUND/DEPT	UAN ACCT #	UAN ACCT #	FUND
ZONING CONTRACTUAL		1000-410-300	\$ 600.00
ZONING SUPPLIES		1000-410-400	\$ 350.00
ELECTION EXPENSES		1000-735-345	\$ (950.00)
TOTAL GEN FUND			\$0.00
SEWER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		5201-541-300	\$ 45,000.00
SEWER REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE (AUTO)		5201-549-430-0009	\$ 20,000.00
SEWER CAPITAL OUTLAY		5201-541-500	\$ (65,000.00)
WATER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		5101-531-300	\$ 15,000.00
WATER CAPITAL OUTLAY		5101-531-500	\$ (5,000.00)
WATER LANDS/BLDGS CAPITAL OUTLAY		5101-539-590-0010	\$ (10,000.00)
STREET PERSONAL SERVICES (SALARIES)		2011-610-100	\$ 2,000.00
STREET CAPITAL OUTLAY		2011-610-500	\$ (2,000.00)
STORM SEWER PROJECT SUPPLIES		4501-640-400	\$ 1,000.00
STORM SEWER PROJECT UTILITY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS		4501-640-560	\$ (1,000.00)
TOTAL OTHER			\$0.00
TOTAL GEN FUND+OTHER			\$0.00

HOPKINS/SUTTON: Motion to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mayor introduced Chris Pratt/Julie Highley from Horan Associates. Chris and Julie passed out documentation to Council with request for proposal information. Julie gave information regarding Horan, noting their company works with over 50 entities in the region, as well as representing CLG (Center for Local Government), a self-funded insurance pool for multiple municipalities. Julie noted Horan has extensive experience with self-funded health insurance. Chris Pratt assured they are not about “jumping in and making changes”, but working with an entity’s current healthcare program and improving upon existing services while researching ways to decrease overall cost. He gave more information on the CLG municipality insurance pool and stated if the Village joined, they would be represented on the board and have a voice. He listed other self-funded pools such as Anthem, Medical Mutual’s pool, and United Healthcare specifying safety in numbers. He mentioned after reviewing the Village’s current insurance costs, there would be significant savings with Horan. Chris pointed out to Council the listing of the available staffing as well as a sample of the monthly reporting that would be distributed to the Village. He proposed possibly increasing deductibles on the plan down the road and adding HRA’s (health reimbursement arrangement) to help with the burden of increased deductibles for employees. Julie Highley encouraged Council to call other entities using their services to ask questions they might have. She mentioned the possibility of saving 30%. Mayor asked how quickly they could offer savings to the Village if they were chosen to represent. They stated they would need at least 90 days to review data for best options. He explained just because the contract is renewed September 1 doesn’t mean that the Village wouldn’t have the option to eventually go into CLG or another plan. Mayor inquired about the grandfathering clause. Chris stated that the grandfathering is not a paramount benefit any longer. When ACA was fully enacted (2014-2015), grandfathering would have been recommended. Predictions are that Obamacare components may be dissolved which means due to cost and other opportunities, it is not necessarily in the best interest of the employer to remain grandfathered.

Mayor introduced Dave Carlson, McGohan Brabender. Dave mentioned they are a privately-owned brokerage firm. He stated they remain private to keep down overall cost. McGohan Brabender services 400 clients of which 75 employers are municipalities. He stated their company is highly trained in how to work with municipalities. He explained being self-funded in a small group is a greater risk and is uncommonly seen today. He mentioned that their firm was very creative in coming up with pooling opportunities such as Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements (MEWA). Dave expressed an interest in conducting a full market review to see the best options for the Village and needing time to search options. He stated the employees are really who are the most important people in the equation. The employee would have direct access to McGohan Brabender employees so they have quick and easy access for claim and health care information. He requested to be named broker of record to represent the Village, not representing any specific TPA (third party administrator). He would work for the Village, not necessarily a specific company. Mayor thanked Dave for his time and presentation.

Phil Blankenship, current broker for the Village, brought a proposal packet he shared with Council. Phil proceeded to go over 2018 data information from Employee Benefit Services (Avalon). He mentioned the census had decreased and changed over the past few years. Phil reviewed the history and medical expense charts. He noted the attachment point increased over the past few years. He mentioned that the dental insurance is a specified coverage that is funded by the Village. Phil reviewed the 2019 renewal options. He proposed the last column in the renewal chart. He stated it would be a 10% reduction from last year’s premiums. He also mentioned that the Village had been interested in raising the employee’s deductibles. He reminded Council he is from Blanchester. Mayor mentioned that there has been a lot of information presented and recommended having a special council meeting on 8/22 at 7PM to specifically discuss healthcare renewal plans.

Mayor introduced Greg Hefner, Board of Trustees President of Marion Township. Greg stated he was there to review the OPWC application for Dudley Road reconstruction. Greg went over the specifications for the project and stated that the engineer’s estimate was slightly lower than the cost today partially due to the cost of materials. He mentioned that if partially funded

at 11%, then the entities get points favoring additional funding by OPWC. He requested Council pass the resolution to proceed with project.

Resolution 2019.025, Resolution Amending Resolution 2018.028 Adopting Reconstruction of Dudley Road in Conjunction with Marion Township and Permitting Application to OPWC for Financial Assistance for Project by Revising Cost Estimates and Village's Local Portions, was introduced to Council.

HOLLON/GEPHART: Motion to adopt Resolution 2019.025, Resolution Amending Resolution 2018.028 Adopting Reconstruction of Dudley Road in Conjunction with Marion Township and Permitting Application to OPWC for Financial Assistance for Project by Revising Cost Estimates and Village's Local Portions. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cindy stated they were working on getting budgets set up for 2020 and reviewing health care insurance options. She stated Zoning has a lot of issues daily.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor stated he had spoken with 1 other company to obtain secondary quotes regarding the recommendations that S&H had provided. He informed these companies that the Firewall is a high priority and turnaround for quotes was needed quickly.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Council Meeting was scheduled for 8/22/19 at 7PM to review options for healthcare.

Trash collection bid was reviewed; Rumpke's pricing had increased by \$.36/unit. Mayor suggested having the recycling discussion at another meeting.

Resolution 2019.021, Resolution to Make Return of Nuisance Property Mowing to the County Auditor, was introduced by the Mayor.

HOPKINS/HOLLON: Motion to adopt Resolution 2019.021, Resolution to Make Return of Nuisance Property Mowing to the County Auditor. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Ordinance 2019.023, Ordinance Closing Veteran's Park to the Public from the Hours of 12:00AM and 5:00AM and Providing a Penalty, recommended by Parks Board, was introduced by the Mayor. Tom Lee explained there were residents complaining that there were people there in the park late at night. Andrew confirmed under the proposed ordinance a violation would be a \$100 fine per incident as a misdemeanor.

HOLLON/GEPHART: Motion to place Ordinance 2019.023, Ordinance Closing Veteran's Park to the Public from the Hours of 12:00AM and 5:00AM and Providing a Penalty, on first reading. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Resolution 2019.024, Resolution Authorizing Mayor John Carman to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s) and to Execute Contracts as Required. Mayor explained the application would be for Cherry Street project. A 21% match is needed in order to get points for the grant.

BAUER/GEPHART: Motion to adopt Resolution 2019.024, Resolution Authorizing Mayor John Carman to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s) and to Execute Contracts as Required. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Resolution 2019.026, Resolution Regarding Bridge Inspection Program Services, was introduced by Mayor to Council. Mayor explained bridge inspections are performed through ODOT.

HOLLON/SUTTON: Motion to adopt Resolution 2019.026, Resolution Regarding Bridge Inspection Program Services. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

None.

STREET

Wayne Clifton affirmed there are no costs associated with the bridge inspection; only if the Village is required to put up new weight limit signs. Wayne stated they were working on signs the last few weeks.

PARKS

Tom Lee stated the Parks would like to get permission to proceed with a fall festival. They would like to have live bands, booths, car show, etc. at the Dewey lot. This would be a co-venture with Chamber of Commerce to be held on Saturday, 9/28 starting at 2:00 PM, "Party in the Park". Mayor asked about food trucks which Tom confirmed food trucks would be present. Mayor stated Parks needed to get an assemblage permit. Tom mentioned maybe this could become an annual event. Common consent among Council to proceed with assemblage permit.

BPA

James Bowling stated the BPA had some recommendations on employee pay raises and personnel changes (Exhibit A). He stated Duke is requesting a 15% increase with customers in Indiana (Exhibit B). He explained Norwood had a violation with EPA water department, stating "it does cost to maintain water quality" and if not completed, becomes compliance issue.

SOLICITOR

None.

FISCAL OFFICE

None.

MAYOR

Mayor mentioned that Cindy had been working with Fire Department concerning properties in poor shape. The properties have been condemned and could possibly be acquired through the land bank. These efforts were at no cost to the Village.

Mayor addressed Garland Crawford and informed him that he had spoken with Clinton County Soil & Water who stated there is more than one culvert that is the issue. He mentioned that the majority is on private property, but he is still working on getting the issue resolved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Constable, 716 Cherry Street, declared he would like to file a formal complaint about an employee. Mayor reiterated it was against Village Public Comment Policy to complain about an employee.

GEPHART/HOLLON: Motion to recess to executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) to consider appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official; and (2) to consider the purchase of property for public purposes inviting Mayor, James Bowling, and Solicitor. Roll call was made. Council recessed at 8:25 PM.

Roll call was made. Council resumed at 8:41 PM.

Recommendation was made to approve BPA's recommendations found on Exhibit A.

HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to approve recommendations as presented. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to adjourn. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Approved: September 12, 2019

Mayor: John M. Carrern

Attest: Shelbi Cantel

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 8, 2019
To: The Honorable Mayor and the Village Council
From: The Trustees of the Board of Public Affairs
Subject: Approval of Employee Pay Range and Raises

At the August 1, 2019 meeting, the Board of Trustees of Public Affairs (BPA) voted to recommend the Council:

1. To authorize BPA to hire a part time employee (permits to work a maximum of 29 hours per week without any benefits) for the office help within the wage range of A-4-D to A-4-G.
2. To authorize BPA to hire a replacement for the retired employee in the sewer department within the range of S-3-E to S-3-G.
3. To approve lifting the probation period and a pay raise as shown below:
 - Lane Heeg from step: E-6-C to E-6-E

The above raise will become effective from the first full pay period following the Council's approval.

Respectfully,

Board of Public Affairs

Duke Energy proposes a 19% rate increase for residential electricity customers

Emily Hopkins and Sarah Bowman

Duke Energy is asking to hike residential electricity bills by about \$23 a month, its first appeal to state regulators for such action in nearly two decades.

The largest electric utility in the state of Indiana filed its request with the Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission Tuesday morning. It is asking to increase its annual revenue by about \$395 million.

The proposed increase is driven by investments to serve a growing customer base, generate cleaner electricity and improve the reliability of electric service, according to Duke's petition to change its rates.

"We know our customers appreciate more and more convenience and choice," said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana. With a "reasonable transition" to cleaner energy sources and smart meters controlling customer energy use, "it's an opportunity for us to provide options and more convenience to customers in ways we never have had before," he added.

Duke serves roughly 840,000 customers across 69 counties in Indiana. Rates for all customer groups would increase by about 15% if the proposal is approved. Residential customers would see an increase of about 19%, or about an additional \$276 per year. Some industrial customers would see an average increase of only 11%.

Kerwin Olson, director of customer advocacy group Citizens Action Coalition, said Duke's request is the largest increase he has seen over the years among the state's five investor-owned utilities.

Duke has invested nearly \$2.5 billion since 2004 to address its growing customer base, but Olson said the utility already charges customers for things like grid modernization and expanding its system through expenses tacked onto the bill. The rate increase, he said, also does not include building new renewable energy projects.

"We are not sure where Duke Energy thinks many residents will find an extra \$23 a month," Olson said. "In our view they are taking food off people's tables with these increases, and why? Is Duke Energy under-earning? Are they not collecting enough money?"

That is a question that Olson, state utility regulators, and the Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, which represents ratepayer interests, will be trying to answer.

Duke's future plans for coal plants

Duke's rate case filing comes days after the filing of their latest integrated resource plan, which lays out how the utility expects it will generate electricity over the next 20 years.

New projections in the plan suggest retiring seven coal-fired units a combined 61 years earlier in order to diversify the utility's generation in the face of potential regulation of carbon dioxide emissions and the decreasing cost of renewable energy technology.

Those earlier retirements play a large role in Duke's requested increase because the company is looking to recover its investments in those facilities and the depreciation of the costs over a shorter time frame.

About 90 percent of the power Duke produced in Indiana in 2018 was coal-fired. The utility intends to supplement the retired coal-fired capacity primarily with natural gas mixed with some wind and solar energy, according to its plans.

However, several critics point out that Duke's projections for the future are "sorely lacking" in renewable energy and battery storage. The combination of solar and wind Duke said it expects to add by 2037 is less than the installed capacity of its current coal-fired Gibson plant.

"So you are talking about a sliver of their system," said Grant Smith, senior energy policy adviser with the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Environmental Working Group. "They are essentially replacing coal with natural gas and keeping wind and solar on the fringes."

Duke says natural gas works to replace coal



Advocates say they are also perplexed by Duke's decision to pursue and plan for construction of a large natural gas plant months after a similar proposal by Vectren was rejected by state regulators.

Last year, Vectren proposed replacing part of its 100% coal-fired generation with a large natural gas plant. But the petition was struck down by state regulators, who said there was a "lack of evidence" that Vectren "made a serious effort to determine the price and availability of renewables."

Duke Energy's new \$3.5 billion coal-gasification plant in Edwardsport, shown on June 12, 2013. (Photo: Charlie Nye / The Star 2014 file photo)

The commission further cited the potential financial risk to customers who would be saddled with paying for the plant over a 30-year period during a time when the energy industry continues to rapidly evolve.

Vectren's plant would have provided 850 megawatts of natural gas power to its customers. Duke in its plans is suggesting a 1,240 megawatt plant in the next five years and another in the mid-2030s.

Pinegar said they are learning from the Vectren decision, and he thinks it is important to include a more reasonable generation mix as part of any future funding requests to build a natural gas plant.

Since the rejection, Vectren has opened an all-source request for proposals to examine the viability of alternative energy mixes.

Duke's announcement also comes just under a year after NIPSCO, a northern Indiana utility, announced its intentions to retire all its coal plants in favor of renewable energy. NIPSCO's plan projects that more than half of the electricity it produces will come from wind, solar and battery storage by 2023.

The majority of Duke's coal-fired plant retirements are slated for 2028 or later.

Pinegar said that he is aware that critics are unhappy with the proposal to replace the utility's coal generation with natural gas and that other utilities had found alternatives. But, he said, Duke needs natural gas throughout its transition to maintain reliability for customers and that its facilities are well-positioned to connect to existing natural gas infrastructure.

Duke will begin working on its next IRP process late next year, and the utility does not plan to take any steps toward building a natural gas plant before that time.

Pinegar said the utility wants to be flexible in case the analysis would recommend shifting toward less natural gas. The utility also will consider using an open request for proposal process similar to what NIPSCO and Vectren did, but it has not yet decided.

Edwardsport plant would become part of customers' base rate

Also included in the rate case would be a change in how ratepayers pay for Duke's controversial coal-to-gas plant in Knox County. The Edwardsport project was nearly \$2 billion overbudget and has underperformed since it first opened in 2013, having repeated outages and costly repairs.

Now, the average Duke Energy customer pays about \$14 per month for the Edwardsport plant in their monthly bill through a "tracker," which allows a utility to recover costs outside of the rigorous regulatory process involved in a rate case.

Now, Duke is looking to incorporate nearly \$100 million each year for operations and maintenance on the plant as part of its rate base. That would not be a new charge for customers but would become a permanent part of the rate that is not reevaluated once each year.

To do that, the utility must convince state regulators that the project is useful and in the public interest, not the expensive boondoggle that many view it to be.