

City of Medora
Minutes of Special Meeting of the Utilities Committee
November 29, 2018
(Subject to Council Review and Approval)

The Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Kinley Slauter. Present were Council Members Kinley Slauter and Tracy Sexton. Dell Beach, Mary Jean Brannum, Mary Schneider, Wally Owen, and Clarence Sitter were also present.

Special Meeting of the Utilities Committee: Review Action Items from the previous meetings and determine recommendations to take to the City Council on December 4.

Recycling

Wally Owen gave an update on Recycling. Wally is working on switching as much to Dickinson as possible to reduce travel, it may be necessary to separate glass if we deliver to Dickinson. He suggested evaluating adding another cardboard trailer to provide more capacity. Wally also recommends repairing and updating the current trailers as they need painting, tires, etc. He also is looking at adding advertising. The cost of repairs would probably be around \$2000 per trailer which he would plan to cover with donations. Recycling is proceeding well.

Sewer

We were advised that the out of pocket operating costs for the lagoon are expected to increase \$15,500 per year so we need a plan to recoup as much of current deficits (\$15,230 projected in 2018) and the increased out of pocket costs as possible. A spread sheet with scenarios was reviewed. A change to charging \$4.00 per month plus \$1.00 per 1000 gallons of water used is proposed. This is in line with what other cities are doing.

Garbage

The study by Mary Schneider and Dennis Streitz validated the 60% City, 40% TRMF split is accurate. Mary and work from Barb Bokinskie provided input on the current inconsistencies, practices, etc. We have many seasonal usage accounts, how they are charged and handled has evolved over the years and there are no consistent rules. One issue is that the account must be responsible for advising the Auditor on a timely basis of when they start and end usage, this is not a City responsibility. A consistent set of rules for administering garbage fees is needed. At the last meeting the proposal was that we:

-look at a rate structure with new consistent categories: Commercial, Commercial Shared, and Residential.

We will need to look at high end users to be sure they are charged accordingly.

-if there is someone living on commercial premises there should be a commercial and a residential charge.

Action: Categorize accounts into the categories for review so we can assess the impacts.

Specific accounts that are high commercial were discussed. Several options on new rate structures, allowing offseason and vacation rates, etc. were discussed. Kinley will summarize the discussion and develop a proposal and send it to the Committee.

Water

As previously discussed, Southwest Water rates are increasing 18% January 1. The Auditor has sent the information with rate change suggestions to the Council. We recommend that water rates be changed January 1 to recover the cost increase, the new rates being: \$17.00 base plus \$5.90/1000 gallons (currently \$17 base plus \$5.00/1000 gal). Bulk rates are recommended to be \$10.00/1000 gal (currently \$7.00/1000 gal), we sell little bulk water and only do so to accommodate contractors, we do not want to expand this business.

Other

Auditor Ridenhower provided an updated analysis of revenue and cost for our utilities for the last 4 years with out of pocket costs identified. Kinley will work on condensing the work completed for discussion at the December 4 Council Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Attest: _____ Kinley Slauter, Chair

Attest: _____ Gary Ridenhower, City Auditor