

## September 25, 2017

A regular meeting of the Manistique City Council was held on Monday, September 25, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Councilmembers Shiner, Hollister, Walker, Hill, and Jeffcott. Also present were Public Safety Director Golat and City Attorney Plackowski.

A. Minutes.

September 11, 2017

**Moved by Councilmember Hill, seconded by Councilmember Shiner**

**APPROVE the minutes of the September 11, 2017 meeting as presented.**

**Yes – Councilmembers Hill, Shiner, Hollister, Walker, Jeffcott**

**No – None**

B. New Business.

1. Citizen Comments Regarding Agenda Items Only.

There were no citizen comments.

2. Update on Water Tank & System.

Manager Aldrich memo. The City of Manistique has an ongoing contract with Utility Services for the annual inspection and upkeep on the tower. Maintenance of the tower is critical in supplying clean safe water to our customers and in keeping our tank in excellent condition. We entered into this contract many years ago and have been very satisfied with their service.

Corey will be here to update Council on the maintenance work just completed on the water tank including painting of the exterior. Please see a picture attached. It has been eleven years since we painted the exterior of the tank.

Corey will be able to answer any questions Council might have on the tank and this service.

Corey discussed the water tower maintenance project noting the following:

- The water tower was built in 1996.
- This is the second time the exterior of the tower has been painted.
- The paint helps protect the steel from corrosion.
- The interior will be painted in the next 3 to 4 years. The internal painting process is more intensive than the external painting process.

Discussion.

Public Safety Director Golat expressed his gratitude to Corey and his staff for working 24/7 when the tower was down to maintain pressure in the system for fire protection.

3. Update on Annual Bio-solids Program.

Manager Aldrich memo. I have asked Corey to update Council on our bio-solids program and explain the process we use yearly at the wastewater plant. This process is with a sole-source provider. The process is quite involved, is quite an interesting process with the company and also with the participation of our employees. This process also plays an important role in our plant's maintenance along with our system's performance.

I think you will find it very interesting and informative. Corey will be able to answer any questions you might have on our system and this process.

Corey discussed the bio-solids process noting the following:

- A byproduct of the wastewater is bio-solids.
- The solids are treated through a digestion process.
- The solids went to a landfill when the City operated a landfill.
- Bio-solids are now spread on farm property that is used to grow certain crops that are not for human consumption.
- It is injected below the surface.
- Between 500,000 and 600,000 gallons are spread each year and it is free to the farmers.

Discussion.

#### 4. Update on DEQ Letter to Lending Agency (RD) on System Deficiencies.

Manager Aldrich memo. I have asked Corey to cover the DEQ letter that typically is sent to Rural Development with our grant/loan applications concerning our CSO (combined sewer overflow) closure requirement and our deadline date of December 31, 2019. This letter plays an important part of our RD loan/grant application which Corey will cover at the meeting.

The Mayor and I have recently traveled to Lansing and met with Rural Development concerning our funding needs to meet this critical deadline. We have also done so with the past applications. Rural Development has been very responsive to our needs with grants of up to 75% of the total cost of our past projects. These grants have played an important role in keeping our rates in line with the reduced loan amount instead of having to borrow 100% of the projected costs.

Corey will also address how far along the City of Manistique is in the replacing of 80+ year old water and sewer infrastructure and how our projects have contributed to our CSO closure, water quality, fire safety needs, and other benefits to our residents.

I feel that we have led by example in not only being compliant with our Federal and State agencies, but we have also led by example in taking care of our businesses and residents by supplying them with safe and clean fresh water at a cost far less than if we would have had to borrow the whole amount.

We appreciate the support we have had from Council on our goals and requirements.

Corey discussed the State issued discharge permit that was approved in 1988 noting the following:

- The deadline for compliance with this permit is 12/31/19.
- By this date, we must have complete separation of sewer and storm water lines.
- With the current system, when there is a significant rain event or snow melt, we are unable to receive all of the diluted sewage at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment.
- Each overflow must be reported to the DEQ within 24 hours.
- With this in mind, we are looking to do a project in 2018 to move closer to compliance with this permit.
- The project will cost approximately \$6 million dollars.
- Water and sewer lines are now required to be separated by 10 feet and be 7 feet deep.
- We must blast a separate trench for the water lines for the separation requirement.
- The new pipe could last over 100 years.

Discussion.

#### 5. Update on Wastewater Plant Inspection.

Manager Aldrich memo. We recently had our inspection of the wastewater plant (please see letter attached). I am extremely pleased with the results and have asked Corey to cover the attached letter with Council.

Corey and the plant employees have done an exemplary job in the operations and maintenance of our plant. Corey will be able to answer any questions Council might have on the plant.

I would encourage Council to tour both the water and wastewater plants at your convenience. I am certain you will be impressed with both operations. I agree with Mr. Asmus from DEQ in that our plant and employees set an example that others could follow.

Corey discussed the CET inspection at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The process is much like an audit with sample testing for quality assurance and quality control. The letter from DEQ was very complimentary of our plant and staff. They stated that our facility is a model for other wastewater plants.

Discussion.

#### 6. Update on M-94 Outlet.

Manager Aldrich memo. I have asked Corey to update Council on an M-94 outlet on the Manistique River that has been of ongoing concern with DEQ and the EPA. Please see the letter attached that explains in further detail.

Corey and Brad have been working with MDOT and the DEQ on this issue for quite some time, and Corey will explain in detail the steps we have taken on the issue.

I have been very satisfied with our response and want to thank Corey and Brad for their particular

attention to detail and testing. Please note that we have used the city engineers to support our findings.

As with the last agenda items, Corey will be able to answer any questions Council might have on this ongoing situation.

Corey discussed the M-94 outlet situation. In March of 2017 a fisherman was fishing on the Manistique River near a MDOT storm outlet that drains M-94 and River Street. The fisherman noticed an oil sheen emitting from the storm outlet. MDEQ was notified from EPA to investigate the oil sheen. MDEQ thought the City owned the outlet when it belongs to MDOT. It is now MDOT's responsibility to prove they are not to blame. The City hired Tunnel Vision to check River Street and no issues were found. Coleman Engineering checked the manholes with a smell residual detector and there was no evidence found. This is backup to show the City is not at fault.

Discussion.

7. Citizen Comments.

There were no citizen comments.

C. Reports and Communications

Mayor Pro Tem Hill:

- The Manistique Lakeshore Campground can now be found on Trip Advisor.

The regular meeting of the Manistique City Council adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Janet Jeffcott, Mayor

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Jeffrey L. King, City Clerk