

5.b. (2) SEWER

K. Shipley reported there were no violations for the reporting period.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

6.a WATER PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

J. Ekstrom (Engineer) updated the commission members on the progress of the water treatment plant improvement project. J. Ekstrom advised that the next critical path step is approval of the 5% increase in water rates. Mayor Auxer stated that the first reading of the proposed rate increase will be before the Town Council on December 8, 2020, which will be followed by a second reading on January 12, 2021; then we may file the rate increase application with the West Virginia Public Service Commission.

H. Heyser asked when bids for the project could be issued? J. Ekstrom advised that the most likely schedule will be in the spring of 2021. J. Bresland asked how many contractors would be invited to bid? J. Ekstrom responded that there would likely be four or five qualified bidders interested.

6.b MECKLENBURG PROJECT.

Mayor Auxer stated that it would be appropriate to hold off on the Mecklenburg Heights project until the water plant improvement project is well underway. S. Kemnitzer requested that the committee refer to this project as the System Distribution Improvement project, as the project scope now targets all needed system improvements and fire hydrant deficiencies, not exclusively in Mecklenburg Heights. Mayor Auxer agreed and asked Staff to so note on future agendas.

Discussion ensued on possible grant funds stemming from the new Biden administration. J. Ekstrom observed that there is a possibility for an infrastructure funding bill like that of the Obama administration's "shovel ready" program.

6.c SEWER USE ORDINANCE – REVISION AND COMMENTS.

R. Keller reported that this project is "on hold" until the members and staff may work together.

6.d MAIN PUMP STATION.

F. Welch presented an update on the list of maintenance projects previously approved by the Sanitary Commission. They include: (1) the Variable Frequency Drive has been installed at a cost of \$24,480; \$25,000 in installation costs were expected; (2) stairs for the third level have been ordered at a cost of \$10,506; (3) hoist has been ordered (\$8,470); and, (4) a new rotary lobe pump will need to be procured at a cost of \$5,752. F. Welch noted that adequate budget funds exist to fund these expenditures.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT.

8. a. TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDED 5% RATE INCREASE IN WATER RATES

As discussed earlier in the meeting Mayor Auxer advised the rate increase will be presented to the Town Council on December 08, 2020 at their regularly scheduled meeting, representing the first reading of this measure. Rate Analyst David Decker will be attending to answer questions posed by the Town Council and members of the public. A detailed discussion of the various line-by-line rate increases and proposed tariff changes was held.

S. Kemnitzer shared concerns expressed to her by customer-residents that the water and sanitary rates seemed high in comparison to other area utilities. J. Ekstrom responded that a quick examination of the PSC website revealed the rates were comparable. There was discussion on measures that could be considered to adjust

specific charges (e.g. sprinklers) to ameliorate the cost pressure on standard rates. J. Ekstrom offered to prepare a rate comparison for the committees. His offer was accepted.

Discussion then turned to the Check Return Charge, proposed to be at the rate assessed by the bank, with a not to exceed \$30 maximum, as annotated in the recommended water tariff. H. Heyser suggested that the sewer rates include the same charge and wording, which was generally agreed upon.

ACTION ITEMS:

(1) H. HEYSER MOVED AND R. KELLER SECONDED THAT THE SANITARY BOARD PROSPECTIVELY APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED \$30 MAXIMUM RETURNED CHECK CHARGE AND LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN THE WATER TARIFF. BY ROLL-CALL VOTE THIS MEASURE WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE SANITARY BOARD.

(2) J. BRESLAND MOVED AND A. SLATER SECONDED THAT THE WATER BOARD APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED \$30 MAXIMUM RETURNED CHECK CHARGE AND LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN THE PROPOSED WATER TARIFF. BY ROLL-CALL VOTE THIS MEASURE WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE WATER BOARD.

9. CONSENT ORDER

F. Welch advised that there has been no activity or contact on this matter.

10. NEXT MEETING- January 28, 2021 at 12:30PM and will be conducted on the Zoom platform.

11. ADJOURNMENT. J. Auxer adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Austin J. Slater, Jr.