

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Minutes of the Special Meeting

Held: Tuesday, August 18, 2020

The special meeting of the South Point Village Council was called to order at 7:00PM by Mayor Jeff Gaskin.

Members Present - Brad Adkins Mike Lynd
 Chuck Austin Chris Smith
 Mary Cogan

Absent - Marlene Arthur

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the water rate analysis completed by Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program. An informative PowerPoint presentation was given by Ben Howard and Wayne Cannon with RCAP. The following was covered in the presentation:

- Who the Village Serves? Approximately 95% residential, and 5% commercial customers.
- 93% of customers are unmetered
- Average annual operating income between 2015 and 2018 was \$14,376
- Water consumption has increased since 2016
- 80.8% of our water goes unaccounted for due to not having meters to track it.
- Without meters it is impossible to differentiate if water is being lost due to leaks or overuse by customers
- Implement a yearly rate increase of 2.75% to keep up with inflation and increased costs.
- The proposed rate structure for metered residential and commercial customers in 2022 will include a base rate of \$11.50 for 0 gallons and \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons used
- The proposed base bill would be determined by the meter size on commercial customers
- Recommended to have a transitional period for customers that will be billed on water metering. This will allow customers time to see their water usage and check for possible leaks before they will be billed according to the water they used
- Installing water meters typically reduces the water consumption by 50%

Administrator. Russ McDonald, commented that the water department is running close to its maximum capacity due to water usage. We will either have to drill for a new well or find a way to reduce our usage to keep up with demand. He contacted RCAP for a professional opinion on our water system heading into the future.

Kevin Wood, village engineer, commented that it is hard for the village to receive any grants for projects due to having low rates and a higher median household income and only being Low to Moderate Income only in a small part of town.

Public: Alex Dornan, who lives on Nelson Avenue, asked if there was a technology to detect leaks. Russ McDonald responded that he is able to detect leaks based on the psi in our closed water distributing system. Alex also asked if the village would consider billing on a “tiered system” based on household occupancy. Mayor responded with saying the bookkeeping and fraud would be too much to handle with billing based on usage and household occupancy. Allen Wagner, who lives on Margaret Street, asked what the other municipalities in our surrounding area are charging for water. Russ McDonald presented Allen with chart showing how our waters rates compared to others.

Mayor, Jeff Gaskin, commented that he will be collaborating with the Ironton Tribune and RCAP in creating a summary report of our water system. This will be mailed to the water customers to make them more informed of our current and proposed water structure.

Mayor Gaskin dismissed the meeting at 9:07 PM

signatures on file
Scott Thomas, Clerk

Jeff Gaskin, Mayor