

TOWN OF UNION BRIDGE
WORK SESSION
September 12, 2022

The Council held a work session meeting on September 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., in the Town Hall. Notice of the meeting was given by posting the agenda at the Town Hall, on the Town's website, and provision to the Carroll County Times. Those present were Mayor Perry L. Jones Jr.; Donald Wilson; Laura Conaway; Cheri Thompson; Edgar Wentz and Circuit Rider, Mike Reynolds. Councilmember Amy Kalin was absent. Town Water Consultant Mike Zechman and Steve Kurek with Ferguson were in attendance for a brief period of the meeting.

MIKE ZECHMAN – WATER METER BIDS

- Town Water Consultant, Mike Zechman discussed the recent bids received for the water meter upgrades. The bidders were (in order of highest to lowest bid):
 - LB Water – Sensus brand meters - \$159,862.28
 - Ferguson – Badger brand meters - \$124,699.00
 - Zenner USA – Zenner brand meters - \$105,322.56
- Mr. Zechman stated that the meter upgrade was necessary due to age of current meters, non-support of current Badger software and upgrade of our water/sewer billing system.
- Mr. Zechman mentioned that Ferguson was a previous reseller for Badger products, but stopped selling the product for a period and is now representing the product line again. He brought in a sales representative from Ferguson (Mr. Steve Kurek) to the meeting to answer any questions about their relationship with Badger. He stated that there is no plan to stop selling the product again. There were no questions for Mr. Kurek. Mr. Kurek was then dismissed from the meeting for further discussion. Mr. Kurek's business card has been included as part of these minutes.
- Mr. Zechman stated that he would not recommend the Zenner product for the following reasons:
 - The Town reached out for references but received no response.
 - There are no other local municipalities or organizations that use the product that he is aware.
- Mr. Zechman stated that he is comfortable with both Badger and Sensus meters as they are both used widely in Carroll County, both for the County and for municipalities. He stated that he has personal experience with both. Mr. Zechman stated that he could not recommend one over the other as he felt the Council should make the decision. He did however, mention the following factors:
 - Badger may be able to just replace the meter heads and allow us to re-use the brass fittings already in place, with units that could be read via a cellular network. The cost would be the same as the bid cost and he recommended that if we were interested in that option, we would need to schedule a meeting with Ferguson to see if it would be possible. This option is not available with Sensus.
 - Sensus meters only hold data for 30 days, versus 90 days with Badger meters.
- As both meters are widely used and reliable.
- Mayor Jones stated that the lower costs of the Badger meter would be desirable as the savings could be used for installation costs, which will be bid separately.
- Mr. Zechman recommended the Town reach out to Diversified Technologies to ensure they are comfortable with the Badger products being offered before fully committing to ordering.

Council President Don Wilson motioned to award the bid to Ferguson. Councilmember Laura Conaway seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Election Procedures Review –

- Mayor Jones handed out a pamphlet used for MML committees titled "Working as part of a team". The document has been included as part of these minutes.
- The Town Council would like to pursue the following changes regarding town election procedures:
 - Town Charter Section 20-23 Voter (item 3) changed to read "*has resided within the corporate limits of the town for one (1) year preceding any town election,*"
 - Update "Election Procedures" document, item #3 to read as follows: "*3. Voters must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age, resident of the town for two (2) years preceding any election and must come to a Town Council meeting and be nominated by a town resident who has resided in the town for two (2) years preceding any election.*"
- The change requests will be sent to Town Attorney, John Maguire, for review and comment.

American Tower Update-

- Mayor Jones stated that Town Attorney John Maguire provided an update that we are still awaiting a response from American Tower reference reduced revenue.
 - Mayor Jones stated that other county municipalities have allowed providers to install cellular transmitters on their water towers rather than using stand-alone towers, and receive 100% of the revenue as opposed to just a portion.
 - Mayor Jones stated that there is a meeting being held with Antietam Broadband on September 22nd to discuss other options for revenue.

DONALD WILSON

- Mr. Wilson stated the Lehigh will be installing directional signs on East Broadway and East Locust.
- Mr. Wilson stated that White Pine has been performing various paving jobs and will be completed on Tuesday, September 13. He also stated that there was a culvert installed on Tener Alley and is awaiting blackout to be completed.
- Mr. Wilson made the following statement regarding the donated bench from Dream Big Union Bridge:
 1. The maintenance (repair and/or replacement) and liability of this bench is the sole responsibility of Dream Big Union Bridge, not the Town of Union Bridge.
 2. Dream Big Union Bridge is responsible for the cleaning of the bench.
 3. Councilmember Cheri Thompson agreed with Mr. Wilson's statements on behalf of Dream Big Union Bridge.

LAURA CONAWAY

- Ms. Conaway stated that 85 snowballs were given away at the recent snowball event.
- Ms. Conaway stated that the event was held with no out-of-pocket money being paid by the Town as all items used were left over from other events. Ice was donated by the fire department.

AMY KALIN

- Ms. Kalin was absent.

CHERI THOMPSON

- Ms. Thompson stated that Jeff Mitten asked if we could close Thomas Street on October 15 at 5pm for a movie night that is being held.
 - Apparently, Mr. Mitten contacted Potomac Edison to have a street light on Whyte Street turned off for the movie night. The Council agreed that only the Town should contact Potomac Edison for this type of request. Ms. Thompson is drafting a letter to send to Mr. Mitten telling him to come through the Town for any future request of the utility provider.
 - Ms. Thompson stated that Eileen Weeks with the Lion's Club gave permission to move the small library located behind the newly donated bench but the Lion's Club does not have a resource to move the library. Ms. Thompson stated that Dream Big Union Bridge will move the library.

EDGAR WENTZ

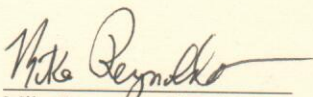
- Mr. Wentz had nothing to report.

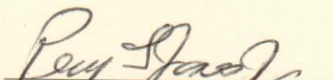
MAYOR JONES

- Mayor Jones had nothing further to report.

The September council meeting will be held on September 26, 2022

The October work session will be held on October 17, 2022.


Mike Reynolds, Circuit Rider


Perry L. Jones Jr., Mayor