

Village of Mapleton
WATER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Mapleton Village Hall, 8524 Main St
24 October 2017 – 10:00 AM

A. Call to Order by Water Chair, Alice Dailey at 10:04 am

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call: Mark Brining, Liz Rench

- a. Also in attendance was Fred Rench, Water Operator

D. Subjects:

- a. **Go Over Bills**

- i. Bill from Core & Main (HD)

- b. Corpro (2015) – Alice asked if an annual inspection was done? Mark stated that he had given everyone a copy of the report when it was done. Alice asked if the cathodic ? was replaced at that time, and Fritz, said no, they haven't done that since he was on the job. Mark stated it is old, and on it's last legs. Alice stated that nothing can be done this year due to the cold and that we can get quotes based on Spring starts. There was a discussion about how much was left in the budget for water. The Hydorranger has Fritz baffled. He deliberately overflowed the tank, took measurements. 28' and the HR was reading 28' overflow. He doesn't think it is off, but Stan says it is 27'. He thinks the print is off and measurements are getting between 8 – 10". There was no problem with the valve inside the booster station working on auto when the tank was drained and isolated, but the valve wouldn't work manually. When the pumps were turned back on it ran fine. Liz asked why the EFI wouldn't take care of that, and he said since there is only one phone line now and it has to be open for Emergency callout system to work he can't leave it running for hours. A discussion followed about why we cannot use an internet connection for phone. An internet phone connection cannot be guaranteed.
 - c. Alice asked if the Generator is saying it is electric why do we need propane? It was explained that the generator produces electricity to

run the tower and uses propane to do so. Alice needs to find the cost of putting the generator in and filling the tank, as they have raised the value to \$1400. Rayann was water chair and Aaron was Mayor. Alice asked why we got in trouble for not having a permit? Apparently, some paperwork did not get sent in when it was due.

- d. Alice designed a form for taking readings for water meters. It will be kept permanently in a binder and never be removed. Mark stated Carolyn should be the only one posting these figures. Alice stated she was unsure what duties each person was doing and will get clarification.
- e. There was a discussion about whether or not to pay the yearly contract for technical assistance for the handheld system at \$2,350 annually or four years @ \$6,680. This would mean paying \$.26 per hour for a year. On-call price is \$250/hour or portion of an hour for phone calls. This would include software updates which can be costly. If you're doing it by the hour, you'll pay for the software updates. If you don't get the updates and the computer takes a dive then the system isn't going to work right.

Liz asked why there were so many issues with the handheld not downloading correctly and not being constantly charged. Mark explained that both pieces have to be plugged in and the blue piece has to be manually turned off or it runs the battery down. Alice asked why isn't it just kept on in Fritz's desk and it was decided that it would be moved in order for Will to have access to it when it was time to read meters.

The question was asked about the warranty on the meters? We've already have some go bad. A suggestion was made to replace all the lids since we just drilled a hole in the old lids, making them ½" above ground. Discussion about putting them in when we knew there would be problems with weed eating and mowing and the cost of new lids. Fritz stated that the lid and frame is \$70. Mark stated that we are a year in and only one has been damaged and he wouldn't spend the money for new lids.

Phone call came in from Core & Main: Alice asked what we were expecting to have problems with? Core & Main reiterated that if you

don't have support it is \$250/hour to call in. Software updates could cost up to \$3000. Highly discounted for four years. He also stated that the four-year rate was a highly discounted rate and the contract has to be paid up front. He also stated that there is no pro-rating for 10 – 15 minute calls. If the phone call is 65 minutes that would be billed at two hours. Liz stated that it is a rip-off. Alice said all the bugs should be out of it and we have spent over what was allotted and now more expenses are coming to light. We will either have to raise the rates or eat it. She also asked how often rates go up and how much higher is it going to be. He said there is no way to answer that.

Liz asked about training manuals we were given to work with their equipment. He wasn't the rep when we purchased it and didn't know the answer to that question. Liz asked if there are manuals that we can get? He will look into it and get back to us so we don't have to go print everything off on-line. Liz told him we are looking for both trouble-shooting manuals and Operating manuals. Alice asked him to get back to her and let her know what he comes up with. Alice said that \$6000 will mean raising rates and is not even sure we can come up with \$2300. Liz stated she is against raising water rates.

- f. Liz stated that we need to look elsewhere for garbage service when our contract is up. Mark reminded everyone that garbage totes go away if we change companies.

- g. Alice asked why we are printing a Usage report from 10-1 to 10-16 with nothing on it but garbage. She also asked why meter readings were done on the 23rd. Mark explained that it was Carolyn's responsibility to put the handheld on Fritz's desk and hadn't done so. Alice stated that is why it should be on his desk permanently. She also wondered why Will didn't call her or anyone else when that happened. Because read dates are inconsistent, it means we wind up hurting the customers. Some will be over who weren't really over and others will not be charged for extra water they used when read dates vary so much. She asked why they can't be done on the 20th? Previously he was given a 3-day window because of ice and snow or if there was torrential rain or lightning and thunder. Since they now can do it from the car, it should be read on the 20th consistently. Bob Meyer in Glasford makes sure the meter is read on the 20th. Mark explained the report Alice got was to

match up with the report from PDC on garbage users.

- h. Illinois Rural Water Conference - \$350/person. Mark went to one last year and said it gave us a lot of information, but no one wanted to do anything that was suggested. He felt the Water line insurance would have been a good deal. Alice stated that she thinks she will just forget about the bond and having the guy come to explain it, because it means raising taxes, not water rates. Probably a \$15-20 a year increase.
- i. Discussion went back to the warranty on the handhelds, which will help us decide if we need to spend the money. Carolyn has called in twice already and Mark has called in twice to get information on the handheld. They had trouble getting them uploaded. Mark said it was a matter of putting the handheld in the right setting. Alice asked if the information they were getting from the call was in writing now so Carolyn could have looked at it when she had a problem. Mark stated there is an on-line manual. He just wanted to make the phone call, fix it and go on. Alice stated there should be a manual so anyone walking in could do the job if needed.
- j. Liz asked when we are going to get our audit back. Alice stated that by December hopefully. Everything had to be re-entered in order to get it done since the new auditor's system was different than the old auditor's system.
- k. Alice asked about the issue with water usage in Rick Sill's house. Mark stated that it is her water usage. Alice said she keeps calling and saying that she is not using that kind of water. How functional are these meters? Mark explained that it is hour by hour and is printed when the meter started running and goes 30 days. Fred said there was someone out there 6/17 when he turned it the water on and he said good, as he needed some water. There was a 10,000 gallon jump between months, meaning something got left on during that time.
- l. Alice stated she will get back to committee when she hears from Core & Main.
- m. Liz asked if Carolyn and Crystal were going to be kept on in Water and Alice said yes.

- n. Mark asked what a minimum monthly charge means and Liz said up to 2000 gallons a month. Alice wants to prorate water for resident because they left 8 days early. After some discussion, Alice stated she would bring it up at the next meeting and let the board decide how to handle it.

- o. Mark explained that even though the valve is turned off, the electronics are still working to determine if there is a leak. The reader needs to watch the handheld to see if there are problems. Liz asked if someone needs to go with him to watch the handheld. Mark stated that there is supposed to be a Leak detection report each month, but Carolyn says an update came through and the report is no longer printing. We need to call Sensus and find out what it wrong. So that was an update we would normally have been paying for. The warranty covered the update. Sensus is the brand and Core & Main is the owner of the system. Liz thought someone riding along one time would be a good idea. Fritz says he was in the backseat and couldn't see anything going on so he so hasn't been trained on the system yet. Mark says it reads about half the accounts for the Village from the office.

E. Adjourn Open Session

Alice motioned and Liz seconded. Meeting adjourned

Minutes transcribed from tape by Patricia Briggs

Approved by the Board of Trustees on November 8, 2017.