

The City of Piqua Utility Board Meeting September 18, 2024

Meeting called to order by Chairperson David Scott at 4:00pm.

Attendees:

Board Members present: Greg Monte, Jo Davidson, David Scott, Rhett Dziech

City staff are present: Kevin Krejny, Brian Brookhart, and Maria Weaver.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion to approve and by unanimous consent, minutes of the June 12, 2024, meeting approved as submitted.

UTILITIES DISCUSSION

- City of Piqua has implemented new software to help with the organization and documentation of Commission Meetings; software is available for other departments to use for the boards or committees they manage; access to the online portal will be given to all members of commission, committees and boards.
- 2024 Utilities Group- Water, Wastewater, and Underground Utilities have been completed and have been submitted to Finance Department for review and revisions.
 - Budget lines were reduced and combined to simplify the budgets for departments and for review by the Finance Department and Commission.
- Project planning and design is in motion for the extension of services to the South of Piqua.
 - Design will be the focus of the year 2025.
- Painting of water tower has been completed; no additional paint services until 2034
- Smoke testing was completed for 2024; testing did result in 12 locations that UU will investigate this spring.
- Staffing:
 - An Underground Utility Department employee suffered an injury while working with a trench box; the expected day of return is end of November.
- Sewer Rates- rate already set for 2025

SANITATION DISCUSSION

- Cash balance is good.
- Staff are tight and finding qualified staff has been difficult; the department is currently short 2 drivers
- 2025 Disposal rates at the Transfer Station are set to increase
 - The department is currently trying to find ways to defray those increased costs
 - City could consider adding fees to the PPE Fall residents
 - Bulk items only picked up once a month instead of every week.
- Upcoming maintenance costs for fleet
 - Rear Load trucks will require their 5-year annual maintenance that is estimated to cost \$20 K- \$50K per truck; this will significantly increase the Sanitation's Department's budget
 - Options to reduce the cost of maintenance.
 - Replace (through sale or lease) trucks every 3 years versus every 7 years, which will take away the recommended 5-year maintenance service (estimated at \$20K); by reducing the number of years of service, the resale value will increase.
 - Changes will be announced in the next week into additional possibilities to continue to provide service to the residents and reduce costs for the city.

Open Discussion

- Jo Davidson- Does the City have a hardship program in place to help citizens with payments?
 - Kevin will check with RJ at our Utilities Billing office to see what is available.
- Jo Davidson- Is all ESG invoicing completed?
 - Kevin stated that all invoice and payment information was given to the Fire Committee upon request.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Utility Board is scheduled for December 11, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion to adjourn and by unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.