

Village of Laura

Minutes of BOPA Meeting

7:00 PM

September 3, 2020

Roll Call: Attendees: President-Jonathan Thompson, Bradley Ingle, Steve Vore, Greta Slagle-Fiscal Officer, Council - Mark May, Wes Beeson -Utilities Superintendent

Previous Minutes. Minutes of the August 4, 2020 meeting were read. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mr. Vore seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ingle-Abstain, Mr. Vore-Yes, Mr. Thompson – Yes, The motion passed.

Citizens Comments. None

Water Tower/Grant. Susan Laux from Mote and Associates was present to give an update on the grant we are trying to get for the water tower. Mrs. Laux noted she has not really heard anything that indicates the grants will not be available due to COVID-19, she should know next month. She noted that right now, the cost of steel has gone up about ten percent. The cost of the whole project has gone from \$865,000 to \$907,000.00. She doesn't know if steel costs will go back down or not. We pay 11 percent of the total cost of the project. Issue 2 Grant money is available; the deadline to apply is September 8. Mrs. Laux asked if we had started collecting the ten-dollar increase in our water bills, as it is the revenue for our share of the grant. We started the rate increase in August. Mrs. Laux asked the Board if they would be interested in sort of "fast tracking our grant application. With COVID-19, she thinks there is a chance we could apply for the grant this round of applications and maybe get ahead of other groups who may be hesitant to apply because of the environment/economy. If organizations don't apply for grants this round, it could mean more money available for those applying. If we apply now, we would start construction in 2022. This would leave us short for collecting our share of the grant. We could maybe apply for \$600,000 instead of \$500,000. Would the Board be interested in taking the chance of starting early if we could increase our chances of more grant money, or getting into the queue for the process sooner?

Mrs. Laux noted we don't have to apply for the grant; we could stick to our schedule. Applying now would be an option that would allow us to possibly fast-track funds. The project would take 6-9 months and would generally start in February/March.

Mr. Thompson was concerned because we're on a tight schedule and would not be able to collect our whole share of the grant. We would go from three years for the project to a 2-2 ½ year project. He could see both sides of the issue.

The Board discussed possible use of the Water Enterprise Fund money to pay off the portion of our share that had not been collected if we start early. We would then repay the Water Enterprise Fund with the 10 dollar per month collections that still needed to be collected.

The Board liked the idea of applying for more grant money and therefore, less loan money. If we didn't get the grant money this round, we could re-apply next year and there really was no risk involved, we'd have the chance to collect our share without using the water enterprise fund.

Mr. Thompson asked everyone present what he or she thought of the opportunity to fast track the grant application. Everyone present thought it was worth the risk, we had the funds in the Water Enterprise Fund to fall back on.

Mr. Vore stated it was ambitious, but he liked the idea of moving forward now. Mr. Ingle agreed, he didn't see anything negative, we can withdraw our application if we see a problem, and reapply next year.

Mr. Thompson asked if the cost of tearing down the old tower was included in the grant, Mrs. Laux stated it was not in the grant amount. She will get an estimate for tearing down the old water tower.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to move forward with applying for the grant now, asking for \$600,000 worth of grants instead of \$500,000 if possible, and possibly lowering our share of the loan we would need. Mr. Ingle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ingle-Yes, Mr. Vore-Yes, Mr. Thompson – Yes, The motion passed.

Water Report: 1. 2750 Pemberton Road Easement. We need to ask Mr. Johnston about the easement for this property. Do we have an easement all the way to the new shut off valve since the shut off valve is now closer to the house?

Sewer Report: 1. No Report.

Old Business: Assessments. Three properties will be assessed.
301 South Main Street.
17 North Main St.
125 North Main St.

Shut offs. 1. No shut offs to report. COVID.

Bills: Mr. Thompson motioned to pay the bills. Mr. Ingle seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Vore-Yes, Mr. Ingle-Yes, Mr. Thompson – Yes. The motion passed.

DP&L	\$1002.98	PERS	\$833.39
Jeremy Bowser	674.12	Frontier	115.52
Gretchen Slagle	295.19	Wes Beeson	888.05
Tony Hunt	662.55	Pace Analytical	
Miami Products	68.75	USA BlueBook	565.20

Mr. Thompson motioned close the meeting. Mr. Vore seconded the motion. All Yeas, the motion passed.

Jonathan Thompson, President

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk