

**Norwalk Utility Advisory Commission – Regular Meeting  
December 10, 2018 6:00 pm  
Public Works Facility**

The regular meeting of the Utility Advisory Commission was called to order at 6:00 pm on Monday, December 10, 2018 by chair Newton Standridge. Members present at roll call: Newton Standridge, Ric Graves, Tim Kalvig, Dan Merriman and Amy Hock.

Staff present: Wayne Schwartz, Public Works Director; Joseph Ballard, Assistant Director Public Works; Shelley Stravers, Public Works Administrative Coordinator.

**Agenda**

*Motion by Graves and seconded by Hock to approve Agenda as presented.  
Approved 5-0.*

**Minutes**

*A motion was made by Merriman and seconded by Graves to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2018 regular meeting as presented. Approved 5-0.*

**Consideration of authorizing National League of Cities Service Line Program**

Stravers reported that at the last meeting Commission asked staff to look into a couple more programs that offer the same type of service so there was something to compare the HomeServe program to. After much research, there are very few reputable companies that offer this type of service. One of the major companies that offered this previously has been purchased by HomeServe. American Water Resources was the only other option to get a quote from. After numerous attempts both by email and by phone, and no responses, staff did not feel this spoke very highly of the company and their customer service.

Staff also found that some private insurance companies offer service line coverage for residents along with their homeowners insurance.

With the amount of campaigns being a concern previously, staff renegotiated with HomeServe on the amount of campaigns per year in which they would contact the residents of Norwalk. Originally they had 6 contacts per year, which consisted of 3 campaigns and 3 reminders. Staff negotiated this down to 4 campaigns per year, which consists of 2 campaigns and 2 reminders.

Staff continues to believe that HomeServe would be a good program for residents who elect to take advantage of it. The City would receive \$.50 per month, per paid contract from HomeServe USA Corp. It would not be a large revenue generator for the City but will hopefully help our residents avoid large repair bills.

*Motion by Hock and seconded by Merriman to recommend National League of Cities Service Line Program to City Council for approval. Approved 4-1. Nay – Graves.*

**Des Moines Water Works 2019 Rate Increase**

Schwartz noted that DMWW approved a 7% increase in their water rates beginning 4/1/19. The City of Norwalk will pass along a portion of that increase, but in looking at budget numbers for next year we will probably not have to pass along the entire increase. As we get further into the budget, we will have the Finance Director come to one of our meetings and present the information to the Commission.

### **Project Updates**

Schwartz updated Commission on the backup generator. The concrete pad has been poured and conduit is in place, we are just waiting on the switch to get installed before they bring the generator out to be installed. But everything is moving along nicely.

Schwartz noted that every few years the DNR comes around and inspects our infrastructure at the booster station. For years we have received bad marks on those inspections due to rust and corrosion on the pipes. We had that all sandblasted and painted this year. Schwartz showed a photo of the before and after. He thought it turned out very good.

The Regional Detention Pond is moving along. We are working with McClure on this. The original intent was to serve a larger area, but there is not enough area on our parcel to serve the entire area, so we're looking at a smaller area for a service area for our next regional detention pond. City Hall is reaching out the landowner of that parcel to see if they have an interest in the dirt from our excavation and just to make sure whatever they are designing for this space, there is a use for a regional detention pond. There will be an assessment that goes along with it. The plan is to go out for bid for construction this spring and it should be on schedule.

Schwartz updated the Commission on the Western Feeder Main project. DMWW received bids on the booster station structure out west. The bids came in favorable. With the bids they had two alternates. 1) Adding a backup generator to that booster station. 2) Moving the completion date forward from the end of September to the end of July. City of Norwalk and Cumming recommended both alternates. DMWW was in agreement so that is what they are recommending to their Board.

All projects together will cost approximately \$3.6 million. We bonded about \$4 million. So unless there is some huge problem, we should be able to get this project east of Cumming without a problem. In the CIP we have a project to start designing on the next phase. We have reached out to DMWW to see if they are willing to start designing that next phase from Cumming to 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue. We are working on an agreement with DMWW.

*Standridge called the meeting to adjournment at 6:32 pm.*

Next Regular Meeting February 11, 2019.

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Newton Standridge, Chair

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Shelley Stravers,  
Administrative Coordinator