

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Town of Estes Park, Larimer County, Colorado, April 10, 2008

Minutes of a Regular meeting of the **UTILITIES COMMITTEE** of the Town of Estes Park, Larimer County, Colorado. Meeting held at Town Hall in said Town of Estes Park on the 10th day of April, 2008.

Committee: Chairman Homeier, Trustees Blackhurst and Ericson
Attending: Chairman Homeier and Trustee Blackhurst
Also Attending: Deputy Town Administrator Richardson, Director Goehring, Officer McFarland, Assistant Dir. Mangelsen and Clerk Williamson
Absent: Trustee Ericson and Town Administrator Halburnt

Chairman Homeier called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

LIGHT & POWER

2006 & 2007 Tree Trimming of Overhead Power Lines – Request Approval.

The Light & Power Department budget includes \$75,000 for the purpose of trimming trees that lie in or near the overhead power lines. This is a continual process that benefits the system through increased reliability and safety. The following bids were received for 800 hours of service from a two-person crew:

- 1) Asplundh Tree Expert:
Year 2008: \$66,912.00/800 hrs. or \$83.64/Hr.
Year 2009: \$70,240.00/800 hrs. or \$87.80/Hr.
- 2) Wrights Tree Service - (NO BID)
- 3) Foothills Tree Experts- (NO BID)
- 4) Davey Tree Surgery Company- (NO BID)

After further discussion, **the Committee recommends approval of the contract with Asplundh Tree Expert at a cost of \$83.64/hr. for 2008 and \$87.80/hr. for 2009 at a total cost not to exceed \$75,000 (896/hrs.) with the second year contingent upon funding from account #502-6301-540-2532.**

Traffic Light Painting – Request Approval.

Since 2003, the Town has maintained the painting of the traffic signals in and around town. As in the past, the project was advertised in the area papers with the hopes of spurring interest and participation from local qualified paint contractors. Again as in the past one bid was submitted by area contractor Roger Ping of Estes Park Painting and Decorating Inc. Staff recommends approval to contract the Manford Ave./Colo. State Hwy 7 painting project with Estes Park Painting and Decorating for \$7,700.

Discussion followed amongst the Committee with regard for the need to paint the aluminum traffic signal poles and create a maintenance issue. Staff suggested the item could be delayed until a decision is reached on the renewal of EPURA. The new EPURA plan includes this portion of Hwy 7.

The Committee recommends postponing the painting of the traffic signal at Manford Ave./ Colo. State Hwy 7 until staff can determine if the pole is currently painted green and until a decision is reached on the renewal of EPURA.

WATER

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Hill Crest Water Line Extension – Request Approval.

In order to get service from the Town's water system the owners of Lot 9 Hill Crest Estates extended the water main within the Right-of-Way from Ptarmigan Trail and continuing along Stone Gate Drive to their lot. This water main will be available to other lots that would not previously had access to the Town's water supply. The owners of Lot 9 have requested to enter into a Waterline Extension Across Vacant Land Agreement to recover portions of the costs related to the construction of this infrastructure. This Agreement would be in effect for a period of ten years and would equally distribute the infrastructure costs between Lots 1, 9, 10 and 11 of Hill Crest Estates in the amount of \$21,544.75 each.

The Committee questioned if the agreement should address interest and how the other property owners would be aware of the agreement. Staff would discuss the issue of interest with Attorney White and record the document for future title searches. Concluding discussion, **the Committee recommends approval of the Waterline Extension Across Vacant Land Agreement with the owners of Lot 9, Hill Crest Estates for a period of 10 years.**

REPORTS.

1. Water Bond Schedule: Finance Officer McFarland and Dir. Goehring reviewed the schedule for the bonding of the upcoming improvements at the Mary's Lake Water Treatment facility.

Trustee Blackhurst stated concern with the upcoming rate hearing on the significant increase to the system development fee and the difference in condominium rates and residential rates. He understands the Town's rates are significantly below other communities in the Front Range even with the increase; however, the proposed increases are considerable. He would encourage staff to review rates more frequently and increase rates over time instead of in one large increase.

Chairman Homeier recommended staff have an alternative suggestion for the public hearing.

Dir. Goehring commented staff is in the process of reviewing 10% of the condominium records to determine if the proposed rate is accurate. If not, staff suggested proceeding if the rate increases and budgeting for a study of the issue in January of 2009. He stated the rate increase could be phased over a three year period rather than in one large increase.

Trustee Blackhurst questioned why a water acquisition fee is charged when the Town is not acquiring new water rights. Dir. Goehring stated the fee is a return on the Town's investment on past water right purchases.

There being no further business, Chairman Homeier adjourned the meeting at 8:53 a.m.

Jackie Williamson, Town Clerk