

TO: Mayor Angelo and Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Aaron Caplan, Director of Utilities & Engineering
DATE: 22 Feb 2022
ITEM: Utility Update

ORDINANCE
 MOTION / RESOLUTION
 INFORMATION

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN), Lyons's electricity provider, approved an overall three percent rate increase for the fiscal year 2022-23 (Apr 2022 through Mar 2023) I am estimating that to be about a \$30,000 increase in this expense on our 2022 budget. The UEB will be reviewing the income and expense report for 2021 and will include this information in determining if rate changes for Lyons's electric are needed. MEAN's more detailed update on the increase can be found at <https://www.nmppenergy.org/news/mean-board-approves-rate-adjustments-2022-23>.

MEAN also held a meeting on renewable energy. They are looking at their options to increase renewables in their portfolio and how they structure contracts with communities that are interested in more renewable energy.

Is there direction to staff on moving forward with the sale of one or both of the parcels on Apple Valley Rd. where our old water treatment plant was? Administrator Simonsen had mentioned in her last report that four realtors all agreed an appraisal would not be worth the town's money. Two realtors felt quite confident that the town could sell both parcels, in their current state for between \$350 – 400K. If it was decided that some of the proceeds from the sale would go to the Water Utility Fund, that would help in determining Capital Improvement Projects that might be worked on. The property was purchased in 1986 for \$10,000 from the Water Fund.

We did have one test at the WWTP with a high BOD of 819, as well as two tests with a high TSS of 807 & 952. We had been testing in the 300 to 500 range. These are the two high-strength wastes that we are concerned about at the plant. I believe these came in because we have not had the lift stations and wet well at the plant pumped out recently. That was supposed to be done last week but the weather Thursday delayed that. This was previously only done once a year at most. I had increased that to twice a year, but we are a couple of months behind.

The Longs Peak Water and Sewer project had been waiting on material for stormwater work. That has been received and the contractor was planning to get started back up on Feb 21st. The weather may delay this. Stormwater work is estimated to take about a week. Removing the

remaining portion of the old road and preparing for the asphalt is estimated to take another two to three weeks. Contractors are hoping to be finished by the first of April.

Work on a request for proposals for the solar facility has been started. If this project continues to move forward the contracts will be slightly different than a standard construction contract. I want to have plenty of research and understanding of how this type of contract is structured. We should see the contract from DOLA in March for the grant they awarded Lyons. At that time the Board of Trustees will be requested to review and determine if the Town should accept the contract from DOLA for the grant.

Longmont's contractor did get the stormwater pipe at the corner of 4th and Park Dr. repaired. They are expecting to begin the excavation for their pump station project at the parking lot on Railroad Avenue across from the post office in Mid-March.

Lyons Valley Townhomes also referred to as the Summit Project, did submit their security for the public improvements. They were issued their ROW permit to begin construction on the infrastructure portion of the project. They have applied for their blasting permit. They have also decided to have a company come in and do pre-blast inspections of the homes within the permit area notification.