

**BOARD OF WORKS**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010**  
**8:00 A.M.**

Mayor James Fleck – Absent  
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present  
Attorney Lindsey Grossnickle – Present  
Walter Crowder – Present  
Roger Seymoure – Present

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session with all members except Mayor Fleck present, Walt Crowder presiding.

**MINUTES** Motion was made by Seymoure to approve an overview of the January 15, 2010 meeting minutes as presented, Crowder second the motion, all voted aye.

**BID OPENING – CEMETERY MOWING** Rosie Coyle opened and read a bid from Wise Property Management in the amount of \$15,200.00 per year for 3 years and for extra work a charge of \$30 per hour.

Motion was made by Crowder to accept the bid received, to take it under advisement and have Kelly Cearbaugh come back to the next Board of Works meeting with a recommendation in reference to mowing the cemetery, Seymoure second the motion, all voted aye.

**PERMIT FOR GAS PIPE LINES – HOOSIER AND SPARTAN DRIVE** Rosie Coyle explained this was to bury a gas line at Hoosier and Spartan Drive. There were no concerns from the utility department heads.

Motion was made by Seymoure to approve the request to bury the gas line at Hoosier and Spartan Drive as requested by NIPSCO, Crowder second the motion, all voted aye.

**CENTERPOINT/NIPSCO RETAIL CHOICE PROGRAM** Tom LaRue explained this was a natural gas supplier to NIPSCO. He reviewed a chart showing a comparison of money that could be saved. He advised it would require us to sign an agreement with them stating that we would buy our gas from them exclusively but would still have to pay a surcharge for line usage to NIPSCO. He advised they did research other companies but continue to come back to CenterPoint. He questioned the Board if it was something they would be interested in doing. He advised it was not the company the County got into a battle with. He pointed out that in 2008-2009 if the City would have been signed with this company we would have saved \$13,286.90.

Jeff Walker questioned if the savings included the surcharge. Tom LaRue did not believe it did. Roger Seymoure questioned if they had any idea what the surcharge would be. Tom LaRue explained what was presented was a gas bill and the savings. He stated the line usage was a separate line item after the gas usage.

Tom LaRue advised this company did not do residential and was commercial only. He could not recall the actual process but it was a fluctuating number that goes up and down with the market and was bought at wholesale.

Rosie Coyle explained she got the City's usage for a year from NIPSCO and was how Tom figured the savings. She stated a few places they currently have were ChromaSource, Whitko Schools, Valparaiso and Goshen.

Roger Seymoure questioned when signing with this company if we would be locked into a price for the year. Rosie stated we would. Tom did not believe it was by price per therm and thought it was maybe a percentage off. He stated they constantly monitor the market and we could lock into a price if we would want.

Walt Crowder felt it would be good stewardship to review options and opportunities but felt it would be the Mayor's call. He suggested either tabling it or move forward with the exception that the Mayor was agreeable to it. Rosie Coyle suggested making a motion to move forward and have them come in for a presentation if the Mayor was ok with it.

Roger Seymoure advised he always likes to save money but is also skeptical when someone says they were going to save this kind of money to later find down the road we really did not. Walt Crowder felt the concept was pretty common across all utilities but it was the details and fine print. He felt they should proceed with caution.

Walt Crowder questioned Attorney Grossnickle if this would become reality if they would have to have 2 quotes. Attorney Grossnickle did not believe we would.

The consensus was to move forward with the issue.

**COMMUNICATIONS/IS DEPARTMENT** Terry Wherry reported he met with Williams Electronics about getting a quote on realigning the wireless network and checking our cabling. He advised he would be changing out some computers on the 3 year rotation program.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** Tom LaRue thanked the Whitley County EMS for coming up and doing their annual CPR certification.

**WATER DEPARTMENT** Mike Cook reported they hooked up a house in Lincoln Pointe and were doing general maintenance at the plant.

**STREET DEPARTMENT** Kelly Cearbaugh reported they did a sewer tap inspection on West Ellsworth Street and have been trying to take care of the streets and alleys. He advised they had the sweeper out trying to get some of the sand off the streets.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT** Larry Whetstone reported they started the tree cutting program for the Tree Board and had approximately 50 trees to remove

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** Mike Petersen reported they would be replacing 2 - 3 of the in-car computers.

**OUTSIDE OPERATIONS** Jeff Walker reported he had a meeting scheduled this morning with Natural Resources Conservation Services, Soil & Water Conservation and the County to continue to explore the bank stabilization efforts within Morsches Park. He felt they were at a crossroads with the fine screen process and were at a point where he recommended having an executive session. He reported the Library granted a 15 ft. utility easement on the south end of their property. He advised they were very understanding in trying to help facilitate this service in getting electric to the Parkview site with the timeframe we had imposed upon ourselves of March 1.

**BILLS** Motion was made by Crowder to pay the bills as presented for \$649,691.38, Seymoure second the motion, all voted aye.

Having no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned.

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Walter Crowder

Attest:

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Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle