

MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISES COMMITTEE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Members: Martin, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; Reinhold, Alternate; Morrison, Staff

Attendees: Martin, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; Reinhold, Alternate; Rowe, Council President; Zimmerman, Member; Barr, Councilman; Morrison, Nigrelli, Staff; Thompson, Borough Manager; McManus, Solicitor; Mowen, Mayor; 3 Visitors

The Municipal Enterprises Committee met on August 16, 2021, and discussed the following:

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed and discussed Ordinance 1562 Approving Borough Authority Articles of Incorporation Amendment. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council enact Ordinance 1562 at their September 13, 2021 meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed and discussed authorization to execute Gross Run Landowner-Grantee Agreements. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council authorize execution of said agreements at their September 13, 2021 meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. Staff informed the Committee of the completion of commissioning testing of the Peaking Generators at the substation. Mr. Morrison stated that the generators have been operated for Load Management on two (2) occasions since commissioning was completed, totaling approximately seven (7) hours of run-time.
2. Mayor Mowen noted that the solar panels appeared to be in a fixed position, rather than angled toward the sun. Mr. Morrison reported that the facility is offline due to an equipment failure at the substation and that repairs are currently in progress. A return-to-service date is not known at this time.
3. A question was raised about a potential issue with the phone system discovered by residents over the weekend. Staff reported that they are aware of the issue and it appears to be caused when multiple callers are dialing it simultaneously. They also reported that action is already being taken to repair the issue.
4. A request was made by a resident to consider adopting a change to the Borough's Net Metering Policy. Chairman Martin requested specific information from the resident, as well as from Staff, to be discussed at next month's Committee meeting.

Old Business Items:

1. Borough Staff will continue to communicate with Borough residents in response to questions about electric rates and the general operating practices of Ephrata Borough Electric Dept. Chairman Martin indicated that she had hopes to answer specific questions at next month's Committee meeting.