

MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISES COMMITTEE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Members: Martin, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Zimmerman, Member; Musser, Alternate; Morrison, Staff

Attendees: Committee: Martin, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Zimmerman, Member; Musser, Alternate
Council: Reinhold, Council President; Ressler
Staff: Morrison; Harris, Borough Secretary
Guests: Nancy Aronson

The Municipal Enterprises Committee met on August 21, 2023, at 5:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Morrison provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of Borough business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Committee Chair Martin asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Ms. Martin asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a Staff request to authorize entering into a professional services contract with Schrader Group for design and bidding of the new electric building. The Committee will recommend Council authorize entering into the contract at their September 11, 2023, meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a Staff request to dispose of used materials from the Electric Department. The Committee will recommend Council authorize the disposition of these assets at their September 11, 2023, meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee discussed the ongoing question regarding the providing of free electric services to certain customers. Several possibilities were discussed for consideration and Staff was asked to pull together some more information. This discussion will remain on the agenda going forward.
2. The Committee discussed the upcoming expiration of the refuse contract with Republic Services. Ms. Harris noted that Republic does not intend to renew the contract due to increasing costs. The Committee discussed the potential options moving forward and will continue to review the possibilities in proceeding months.

3. Mr. Morrison informed the Committee that the Borough recently transacted on an energy block as authorized by the Council. A 7 x 24 block, at 3 MW, was purchased for supply years 2026-2029 at a price of \$48.05/MWh. Mr. Morrison expressed optimism that the price point will continue to allow the Borough to maintain electric prices as low as possible.
4. The Committee discussed the addition of a sign at the Borough's solar facility on Springhouse Road. Mr. Morrison informed the Committee that, due to site-line restrictions on Route 272, there have been issues regarding placement of such a sign. Staff is continuing to work on potential locations and will report back to the Committee in future meetings.