

**NASHVILLE UTILITY SERVICE BOARD
BUDGET WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021**

Commission members present: President Roger Kelso, Vice-President Bob Willsey, Member Bob Kirlin, and Member Pam Gould. Commission member not present: Secretary Alyn Brown. Also in attendance in person: NMU Water/Sewer Utility Operator Robin Willey, and Records Clerk Sandie Jones. Attendance via Zoom: Municipal Operations Consultant Dax Norton

COMMISSION BUSINESS

1) CALL TO ORDER

President Kelso called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm and did the roll call.

2) BUDGET WORK SESSION

MOC Norton reviewed the numbers the USB put in the water/sewer budget. He reported that the Town Council has given a 3% increase for employee wages. MOC Norton not sure if the CT gets 3% raise as she is an elected officer.

President Kelso commented that the budgets show the Assistant Water Utility Operator, Utility Tech, and Project Manager all have \$0 in the proposed budget. Member Kirlin pointed out that the flow chart has recommended positions, MOC Norton explained that this was from a staffing analysis done by IDEM. President Kelso stated that he would like to see another column with IDEM agreed order and match the names and positions. Vice-President Willsey asked about overtime increases. Discussion.

Member Gould asked why they are taking Town Council salaries out of Water and Wastewater now that they have the USB. MOC Norton explained that all other towns do this, the USB serves at the pleasure of Town Council, and they are the ultimate overseers of the Town's finances. Member Kirlin commented that the Town Council is not doing the same amount of work with utilities that the USB is doing.

Member Kirlin asked if we had an estimated income for 2022. MOC Norton advised that the Krohn and Associates report may answer that question and will get us numbers. MOC Norton reported that the budget is higher than what they will be taking in, but the tracker increase will help. President Kelso stated that he could attend the next Krohn meeting and discuss rates. Member Kirlin asked to see other rural rates for comparison and noted that getting neighboring community rates and salary information would be helpful. Discussion. President Kelso stated that there are benefits of a large customer, and we need to share that with the public. President Kelso wants to know what the SRF grant has done for them and what other grants are available. President Kelso commented that he is not ready to adopt the new budget at this meeting.

MOC Norton advised that the Public Hearing regarding the tracker rate fee is scheduled for October 21, 2021. He believes that the Town Council is on board with this increase. He asked members of the USB to attend to the public hearing to answer any questions. Krohn will also be at the meeting.

President Kelso reported that the street department is still sharing employees and vehicles with USB. Members asked if we should run the street department, and MOC Norton said yes and that Town Council President and Vice-President know about this and are on board. President Kelso

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suggested they do this for a contract fee, and MOC Norton to present at the November Town Council meeting.

MOC Norton stated that the USB does not need the approval of Town Council for the water and wastewater budgets, but usually bring this them for approval. MOC Norton also advised that there is no requirement for a public hearing for a rate increase.

MOC Norton explained that a cost of service study is a rate study and may be able to start in November. Member Gould asked about looking into incremental increases for: hook on fees, tracker fees, pay for budget and bonds. MOC Norton stated that as long as USB has a budget, they can hire Krohn to do the study. MOC Norton explained that the USB will approve the budget, then the numbers go to financial analysis, and they will give the rate numbers.

3) ADJOURN

Member Gould made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-President Willsey seconded the motion. President Kelso adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

The audio recording made at the Nashville Utility Service Board meeting on 10-7-2021 is retained in the office of the Town Clerk-Treasurer.


Utility Service Board Member

1/12/2022
Date