

City of Fennville
August 24 2010

A special meeting of the City of Fennville was called to order at Fennville District Library at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Rastall.

Commissioners Present: Rastall, Meyaard, Cummins, Pantelleria, Brien, Suerth.
Commissioners Absent: Watson

Public present: See attached list.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor Rastall called the public hearing to order at 6:01 p.m. Introduced the City Commissioners.

Mayor Rastall introduced Steve Bishop from Fleis and Vandenbrink who reviewed the project. What will be constructed and where it will be constructed. Stated that it would be constructed in two phases. The first phase is the water treatment plant; the second phase will be the distribution system. The time line for the project, to design the project now; receive bids this winter; construction next spring, summer, and fall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Where is the water system located? In the city limits south off 58th St.

Concerns about water pressure: Making higher pressure, it will also run downhill from the city. Will be doing a hydraulic analysis.

Question on the water treatment system Will take out the iron and manganese.

Why stop at 54th St? This area is in the Administration Consent Order (ACO). If you are in the ACO we will be extending water to your property.

Is this all being funded by grant money? Birds Eye is paying for water treatment plant at their business. The City is getting a grant from MEDC for the water extension and water treatment plant.

Will there be a charge to hook up? The survey is to see how many may be interested in hooking up. Then we will do a budget to see how much the grant money will cover and if there will be any charge to hook up.

Will we be able to use our wells for watering grass and gardens? No, the well will be capped according to the health department. Concerns that the well may accidentally pump water back into the city system.

Will there be a stub for those that don't want city water right now? No, but you still may hook up later at your cost.

What would that cost be? Depends on how far off the road the house is. The cost right now is about \$2,500.00 for 150 feet.

Why can't you put any grant money that you don't use into escrow for those that don't want to hook up now? Monies not spent must be returned according to federal grant guidelines. We only have a certain amount of time to spend the grant.

If my well goes bad, may I drill another well? If you are within 200 feet of the water main you will be required to hook in to the city system.

What is Birds Eye paying for? If there is not enough money for the hook ups, Birds Eye will pay \$70,000.00 to help with the costs. If there is enough, \$70,000.00 will be paid to the City of Fennville for maintenance. Birds Eye is also installing a 4 million filtration system for its plant, to treat the water that goes into the fields. The city will receive 1.5 million for an iron filtration plant to remove the iron and manganese and 2.3 million to extend the water to you.

What is the cost of the readiness fee and why do we have to pay that? The cost of readiness fee is \$21.45 per quarter and that is to have water available to your home.

Why does it cost more for a resident outside of the city? City residents pay a higher millage rate.

Will we have an agreement on the rates so that we won't end up paying more? When the rates increase, all rates will increase, both city residents and non-residents.

Will there be fire hydrants? Yes.

Will there be clean drinking water? Yes, we are putting in a new filtration system

What about shutting off the water if the bill is not paid? If you are having troubles with your bills, just call the office and they will work with you in setting up payments.

Is there a deposit or will Birds Eye pay that deposit? There is a \$150.00 deposit. If you pay all of your payments on time for one year the deposit is refunded to you. If you don't pay your bill the amount will come out of the deposit.

What about a turn on fee? If you don't pay your bill or arrange to make payments, your water will be turned off after notification. In order to have the water turned back on there is a \$50.00 charge.

Why do I have to pay for Birds Eye mistake? There are some cost savings with having city water, no electric to run the pump, no maintenance on the pump and if the power goes off, you still have water. Property values will also go up with water hook up.

Will we still need a water softener? That is a personal preference. Some City Commissioners have softeners, some don't.

Why isn't the water bill sent to Birds Eye? This is what the DNRE decided.

Why stop at 54th ST. The DNRE set the boundaries. The City is doing this to help out our neighbors. We are trying to offer a solution and help in any way we can. The City was approached by the Department of Agriculture.

When will this be complete? Should be complete next fall.

When will we know if there is a cost? Another letter will be sent out to let you know if there is a cost and how much that cost will be. We are optimistic that there will not be any cost. Payment arrangement may be possible if there is a cost.

Moved Rastall, second Meyaard to close the Public Hearing at 6:50 p.m. Ayes: All.
MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Phenix
Fennville City Clerk