



**MINUTES
COHASSET PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
305 NW FIRST AVENUE
COHASSET, MINNESOTA 55721
MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019 - 12:00 NOON**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Rachel Graf called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Bob Connolly, Rachel Graf, Jim Mahon, Jeff Sheldon, Dan Toewe, and Co-Chair Jack Yates

Absent with Notice: None

Absent without Notice: None

Non Officio Members: Bernie Hillman, and Max Peters

3. **Business or Resident Input:** Jeff Sheldon reported Lake Country Power is preparing to do the punch list and if all goes well, there will be an open house in September and the employees will be moving in by October. It was noted that the building will be heated with electricity but the contractors used a lot of natural gas during construction.

4. **Review and Approve the Agenda:**

Additions: Water Availability Charge and PUC Directory List

Deletions: None

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

**The Chair did not announce the names of those who made or seconded the motion.*

5. **Approve the May 6, 2019 PUC Minutes:** *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.*

**The Chair did not announce the names of those who made or seconded the motion.*

6. **Oath of Office for Dan Toewe:** Commissioner Dan Toewe was given the Oath of Office.

7. **Request for a Sewer Credit for Account #10093801:** *After discussion a motion was made and seconded to recommend to City Council that a credit of \$115.95 is given to account #10093801. Motion carried.*

**The Chair did not announce the names of those who made or seconded the motion.*

8. Update on Natural Gas Extension Projects: Public Utilities Employee Bernie Hillman reported that the gas line on Columbus Avenue has been moved from the east side to the west side to accommodate storm sewer activity, etc. (this is a County project.) City Council approved the natural gas line extension from South Shoal Lake Road to North Shoal Lake Road to include Mallard Point on Prairie Lake. Peters noted that residents included in the expansion project have been sent an informational packet including application forms. *A motion was made by Yates/Toewe to close the natural gas extension project discussion. Motion carried.*

9. Miscellaneous Business: None

10. Water Availability Charge: Dan Toewe indicated he does not think vacant lots should be charged a water availability charge. Jack Yates and Max Peters explained the water availability charge by making the following points:

- The owner’s property value is higher if City water is available;
- If the City were to get eliminate the water availability charge the cost of water would need to be raised;
- The water and sewer fund is not a money maker and the availability fee needs to be charged to repay the capital used to pay for the project;
- All property owners pay the fee to collectively pay for City water.

11. Update PUC Commissioner List: The 2019 PUC list will be emailed to members.

Chair Rachel Graf adjourned the meeting at 1:00.

Submitted by Deputy Clerk Karen Blair

Approved: 9/9/2019

	10/1/18	11/5/18	12/3/18	1/7/2019	2/4/2019	3/4/2019	4/1/2019	5/6/2019	6/3/2019	7/1/2019	8/5/2019
Jeff. Sheldon	P	P	P	P	NM	P	NM	P	EA	NM	P
Rachel Graf	EA	P	P	P	NM	P	NM	P	P	NM	P
Jim Mahon	P	P	P	P	NM	P	NM	P	EA	NM	P
Dan Toewe	P	EA	P	EA	NM	EA	NM	P	P	NM	P
B. Connolly	P	EA	P	P	NM	P	NM	EA	P	NM	P
Jack Yates			Interview	P	NM	P	NM	P	P	NM	P

- P: Present
- EA: Excused Absence
- UA: Unexcused Absence
- NM: No Meeting