

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
May 9, 2023**

(Approved: June 6, 2023)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Pro Tem Bob Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Kirk Albinson, Rob Apatoff, Tina Dalman, Bob Dearborn, Kim Handler, and Bridget Orsic. Absent: President Chris Rintz. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, Village Attorney Courtney Willits, Water & Electric Director Brian Keys, Assistant Water & Electric Director Nick Narhi, Finance Director Tim Sloth, and 4 persons in the audience.
- 2) Public Comment.
 - a) Katie Stevens addresses members of Council regarding lakefront matters, stormwater, and concerns pertaining to public safety along the beachfront.
 - b) Irene Smith addresses Council on concerns related to permitting along the lakefront.
Trustee Dalman enters at 7:11pm.
 - c) Ted Wynnychenko addresses Council on concerns relating to lakefront properties.
- 3) Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI).

Assistant Director of Water & Electric Nick Narhi states that while the current meter reading process is entirely manual, the Advanced Metering Infrastructure project would not only modernize the system and process, but customers would see significant benefits relating to customer service improvements. Mr. Narhi informs Council of the Village's metering methods for water and electric and the history of metering advancements in comparison to the Village. Currently, Village staff complete manual meter reads before the data is uploaded, verified, and the billing file is issued to an outside vendor that prints and mails the utility bills to customers.

Benefits of the AMI project would positively impact customer benefits, such as: improved response times, accessibility to high quality data, and overall metering infrastructure improvements. Electric system improvements include implementation of a true smart grid that will significantly improve the metering infrastructure and process. The AMI project will also contribute to a greater detail of customer consumption trends for rate making, assist in decreases of unaccounted water loss through the improved accuracy of meters, and help identify of potential theft through remote disconnect and reconnect options and alerts.

Mr. Narhi informs Council of Power System Engineering evaluation methods and proposed phases of the project, including the timeline and projected dates.

Council discusses matters related to the Village's revenue, quality and efficiency of data, smart grid implementations, lifespan of the system, and customer related data.

The Power System Engineering representative informs Council of system improvements, system efficiency, the improved quality of data and meter reads, and benefits for both customers and the Village.

Tim Sloth informs Council of the cost components and budget offsets, matters related to inflation, ownership cost components, budgeting related to the electric, water, information technology, and general fund, staff related expenses, and grant opportunities.

Water & Electric Director Brian Keys confirms that Council will not yet be approving any finalized contracts and states the next phases of the AMI project.

Council unanimously agrees that the AMI project will not only be beneficial for the Village, but will also significantly improve the system and process.

Public Comment.

Tim Ring addresses Council regarding the ownership of data and wholesale providers.

Adjournment. Trustee Apatoff, seconded by Trustee Dalman moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

/s/Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk
Recording Secretary