



Village of Commercial Point  
Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes  
December 21, 2020

Ms. Joiner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. FO Hastings took roll call with the following members present: Ms. Joiner, Mr. Mitchem, Ms. Wolfe, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Grassel. Mr. Moore was not present.

AEP & SCP Franchise Agreement Discussion:

Mayor Goldhardt conferenced in Attorney Pacheco via telephone. Mayor Goldhardt gave an overview of the reasons for the continued franchise agreement discussion. After having a discussion with Mr. Pacheco last week, he said basically what Bill Scala is asking the Council to do is re-draw the certified territory lines. Redrawing these boundaries is a PUCO function, not a municipality function. The Council does have the authority to grant or deny exclusivity within those existing certified territories, but the law is unclear as to whether a municipality actually has the authority to redraw the certified territory boundaries. Mayor Goldhardt said that Mr. Scala should be taking his request to the PUCO, not bringing it before the Village Council. If he has problems with his utility provider, his first call should be to the provider, not to the Village Council. Kyle Heavrin, of South Central Power, had previously told Mayor Goldhardt that neither K-Nova nor Van Trust has not contacted them about any problems whatsoever. Mr. Pacheco said council has the authority to grant exclusivities, but the question is, does it make sense to do so. He said the statute does allow the actual providers to go before the PUCO and work out these types of arrangements if needed. Otherwise, you could have utilities crawling all over each other trying to install their facilities. Ms. Joiner said some of that particular territory is going to be negotiated between the Village and K-Nova. She asked if we did not allow them to do this, would the Village lose the ability to negotiate our rates with the utility company. Mr. Pacheco said he is not aware that the Village even has the ability to negotiate utility rates since that is a PUCO function.

Council Rules 2021

Mayor Goldhardt advised Council of a few minor changes that he is proposing to the existing rules. Those changes included Section 1.02 and Section 1.02.1 which added the Administrative Assistant and their duties. He said this will come before council at the January meeting.

Council Dates for 2021

Mayor Goldhardt said that these are to be voted on at the first meeting in January. He provided Council with the suggested dates. They did discuss moving the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to July 12<sup>th</sup>.

President Pro Tempore for 2021

Mayor Goldhardt advised Council that at the first meeting, they will need to elect a President Pro Tempore for 2021.

Village Solicitor Contract

Solicitor Cartee discussed having an addendum added to the solicitor contract with an increase in the retainer fee. After a brief discussion, he was asked to draft a proposal for their consideration at the January meeting.

New Business

Mr. Grassel asked if there was any updated information on the Pettit's sign variance. Ms. Joiner advised him that the variance was granted at the previous meeting. Mr. Grassel was unaware of this because he had to leave the previous meeting early due to illness.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Thompson. All were in favor, the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Tracy Joiner, Councilman

Wendy Hastings, Fiscal Officer