Berea Utility Advisory Board

Minutes for March 26, 2019

BMU Conference Room

Present: Josh Bills, Steve Wilkins, Diane Zekind, Rodney Short

Staff Present: Kevin Howard, Adrian Isaacs, Terri Brumley

1. Recommendations will be made to Mayor Fraley to explore On Bill Financing Program. BUAB recommends the City investigate program further.

 Steve Wilkins volunteered several hours per week to explore program/administration of

 Program.

 Will be added as a Rate Code to the bill of customers who take advantage of program.

 The next step will be a letter to Mayor Fraley with explanation & request to move forward.

 Steve Wilkins will compose letter and run by BUAB members for input/approval.

1. Steve Wilkins attended the Strategic Planning meeting with Kentucky League of Cities. He passed along information for On Bill Financing. Information was sent to KLC to add to the Public Record. Report on the meeting can be found on the City of Berea’s website.
2. Paul Garcia will be conducting a Rate Study looking at PCA for now. Paul Garcia has performed the Rate Studies for the last 15 years. There will probably be an increase in water/sewer rates. Kevin plans to do a more in-depth study after we have been with AMP for a year. The base formula for the PCA came from 2010.
3. BUAB recommendations for replacements for Jordan Williamson. Kevin & BUAB prefers someone from one of BMU’s industrial customers who has all 3 utilities (water/sewer/electric). The first choice is someone from Berea College with the second choice being Berea Hospital. Kevin will send an email to Derek Singleton to see if he would be interested. If he is not interested, he will check with Berea Hospital for a representative.
4. Utility Updates:

The Berea Utilities website is up and running. Changes and updates are still being made.

Kevin, Adrian & Heather Powell met with Jackson Energy regarding their Pre-Pay & AMI Programs. Jackson Energy has 55,000 customers with 7,000 customers in the Pre-Pay Program. They have 3 different software programs working together for Pre-Pay Program. They charge a flat fee of $5.00 per month for Pre-Pay customers plus a $1.00 - $1.50 fee for each transaction. Readings are taken at midnight and reports are available by 8:00 the next morning. They started the AMI Program in 2001. Pre-Pay will not work with Springbrook Software.

FERC De-Pancaking Ruling on Thursday, March 21st went against Municipal Utilities. The ruling should not go into effect with BMU until existing contracts expire. BMU customers should still see same savings as stated in contract. Kevin will give more in-depth information on FERC De-Pancaking Ruling at next BUAB meeting.

BMU has averaged between 1100 and 1400 cutoffs per year for the last 5 years. The 1400 was the year of the polar vortex. If you take that year out, the average is 1200 cutoffs per year.

BMU has, or will have in the very near future, 3 positions vacant. Clay White our GIS Coordinator is leaving to take a position with Richmond Utilities. His official last day will be April 5th but he will be taking vacation/sick time starting March 29th. Dustin Barnett, our most experienced lineman, left to work with his father. His last day was March 15th. Our Daily Tech, Doug Pratt will be retiring on July 1st this year. We will be posting job openings for a Lineman, a Daily Service Tech and a seasonal worker to help Dee Robinson with water meter testing. We are not filling the GIS Coordinator position currently. Jay Robinson, our GIS intern will be our GIS person for now.

Adrian is working with Public Works and the Codes Dept. on a draft of a policy on Street Lights in new developments.

The next BUAB meeting will be on Tuesday, April 23rd.