

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
Seth Speiser

VILLAGE CLERK
Jerry Menard

VILLAGE TRUSTEES
Ray Matchett, Jr.
Steve Smith
Mike Blaies
Mathew Trout
Dean Pruett
Elizabeth Niebruegge

VILLAGE OF FREEBURG

FREEBURG MUNICIPAL CENTER
14 SOUTHGATE CENTER, FREEBURG, IL 62243
PHONE: (618) 539-5545 • FAX: (618) 539-5590
Web Site: www.freeburg.com

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
Tony Funderburg

VILLAGE TREASURER
Bryan A. Vogel

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
John Tolan

POLICE CHIEF
Stanley Donald

VILLAGE ATTORNEY
Weilmuenster Law Group, P.C

March 10, 2014

NOTICE
MEETING OF THE ELECTRIC COMMITTEE
(Blaies/Smith/Niebruegge)

An Electric Committee Meeting of the Village of Freeburg will be held at the Municipal Center, Executive Board Room, **Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.**

ELECTRIC COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

I. Items to be Discussed

- A. Old Business
 - 1. Approval of February 12, 2014 minutes
 - 2. Portable Generator replacement
 - 3. Wiegmann's project
 - 4. Shed
 - 5. Rate Study
 - 6. IMUA Scholarship Program
 - 7. Surplus Temporary Service Equipment
- B. New Business
- C. General Concerns
- D. Public Participation
- E. Adjourn

At said Electric Committee Meeting, the Village Trustees may vote on whether or not to hold an Executive Session to discuss the selection of a person to fill a public office [5 ILCS, 120/2 - (c) (3)], litigation [5 ILCS, 120/2 - (c)(11)] personnel [5 ILCS, 120/2 - (c) (1)]; or real estate transactions [5 ILCS, 120/2 - (c)(5)].

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ELECTRIC COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting of the Electric Committee was called to order at 5:32 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 by Chairman Mike Blaies. Committee members present were Chairman Mike Blaies, Trustee Steve Smith, Trustee Elizabeth Niebruegge, Mayor Seth Speiser, Trustee Dean Pruett, Public Works Director John Tolan and Office Manager Julie Polson. Guest present: Janet Baechle.

A. OLD BUSINES

1. Approval of February 12, 2014 Minutes: Trustee Steve Smith motioned to approve the February 12, 2014 minutes and Trustee Elizabeth Niebruegge seconded the motion. All voting aye, the motion carried.
2. Portable Generator Replacement: Public Works Director John Tolan advised we are waiting on this until the next budget.
3. Wiegmann's project: John said we are waiting on the weather to cooperate.
4. Shed: John said the heat is up and running. We do have a few minor leaks. Also, the feed line for the manifold is closed. We may run a new line overhead which will be the return. John said the heating company is going to try some fixes first before we run a new line. The water service is in and Shane is talking with Davinroy about the oil separator and installing the rough in for the plumbing. The lighting is also in.
5. Rate Study: John said he doesn't have anything new on this.
6. IMUA Scholarship Program: Julie said we did not receive any applications. Item can be taken off the agenda.
7. Surplus Temporary Service Equipment: On hold for now.

Trustee Blaies asked about the bushing leak and John advised it is in and running. He also asked about the budget billing and John advised the letters were sent out to all the participants updating them with the revisions to this policy.

- B. NEW BUSINESS:** John stated the IMEA meeting last month was pretty heated. He said Prairie State is only operating at 35% and Kevin Gaden will be going there for a meeting about this. John passed out an article on the city of Naperville possibly raising their electric rates by 6%. He said Naperville has a \$14,000,000 deficit in the electric fund and no reserves. John believes we have another rough year with electric rates but it should get better after that.
- C. GENERAL CONCERNS:** None.
- D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.
- E. ADJOURN:** *Trustee Elizabeth Niebruegge motioned to adjourn at 5:56 p.m. and Trustee Steve Smith seconded the motion. All voting aye, the motion carried.*



Julie Polson
Office Manager

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A. OLD BUSINES

1. Approval of January 15, 2014 Minutes: *Trustee Elizabeth Niebruegge motioned to approve the January 15, 2014 minutes and Trustee Steve Smith seconded the motion. All voting aye, the motion carried.*
2. Portable Generator Replacement: Shane said he is waiting on this until the next budget. If he gets a full-sized truck, he would be able to put the tank on that.
3. Wiegmann's project: Shane said we are waiting on the weather to cooperate.
4. Shed: Shane stated he is very discouraged with the heating company. They were here about two weeks ago and were supposed to finish up in two days. He has called their office and expressed his frustration with the situation. They sent 3 guys out the next day and the work is still not done. We received a bill today and obviously we are not going to pay it until the work has been completed to our satisfaction. Mayor Speiser stated he will give the company a call.
5. Risk assessment conducted by insurance company: Shane said he has condensed the checklists into one monthly checklist to cover everything and also said the assessments are being conducted. John commented this is a good tool for preventative maintenance monitoring. Item can be taken off the agenda.
6. Rate Study: John said we had an informational meeting with Verbal. There isn't much for us to do right now on this.
7. IMUA Scholarship Program: Julie said the deadline for the applications is March 7th. We have not received any yet.

8. Surplus Temporary Service Equipment: Shane would like to hold off on this for now. He said we have quite a few temps out in service. Once we get all the good ones back, he will advertise for this.

Trustee Smith asked about the bushing leak and Shane stated it should be repaired next week. Shane said we had the oil changed and coolant flushed out of units 8 and 9. They hauled off about 500 gallons of each. This is work done as a result of the 3-year maintenance plan we executed with BHM&G. Once this service plan is over, we may want to look at addressing one for the newer units.

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. True up of utility accounts: Village Administrator Tony Funderburg advised the committee we are having some problems with the budget billing. If a customer is late paying, there is no way to charge a late fee. Our billing system can't handle it. We cannot manually go in and charge a late fee. The committee discussed changing the policy to make direct debit a requirement moving forward. That change will be made effective immediately. The committee also decided to waive the first true up in March due to the record cold winter we experienced. If a customer wishes to true up in March, they may do so. The committee also decided to have one true up a year which will coincide with the November 7th bill and any customer not on direct debit, must do so by that time. For any current budget billing customers, if they are late once, they have to go on direct debit at that time. Tony will work with Jane to send out a letter to our current budget billing customers advising them of the changes in this policy.

C. GENERAL CONCERNS: None.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

E. ADJOURN: *Trustee Steve Smith motioned to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. and Trustee Elizabeth Niebruegge seconded the motion. All voting aye, the motion carried.*



Julie Polson
Office Manager

Trib
NAPERVILLE
 WITH NEWS FROM LISLE

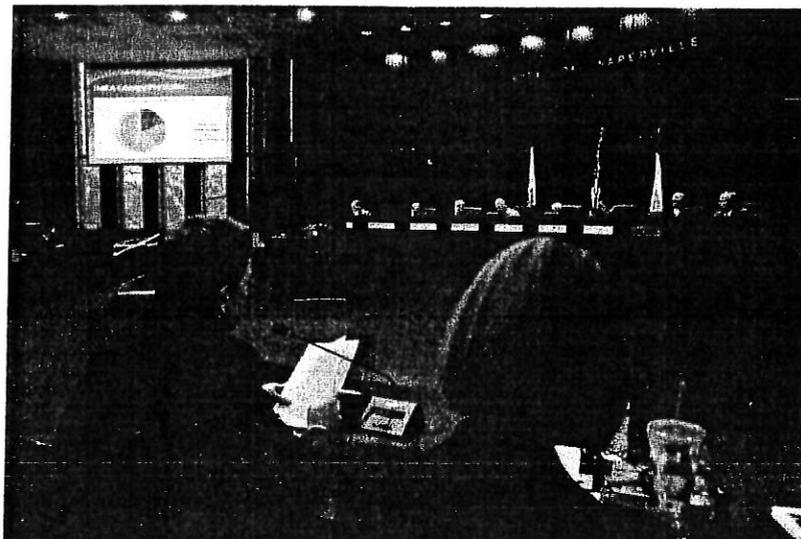
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Naperville eyes 6 percent electric rate hike to cover deficit

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Naperville City Manager Doug Krieger, left, addresses the City Council during a workshop to discuss electric rates in Naperville. (Scott Strazzante, Chicago Tribune / February 23, 2014)

By Melissa Jenco and Gary Gibula, Chicago Tribune

4:14 p.m. CST, February 25, 2014

Naperville residents are likely to see their electric rates spike 6 percent this spring instead of the 2 percent they expected.

City officials discussed the rate hikes Monday in light of a \$14 million deficit in the utility's budget. It also is short the \$11.2 million its own policy calls for it to have in reserves.

The plan councilmen informally approved would raise monthly bills by \$5 this spring and another \$6 next year.

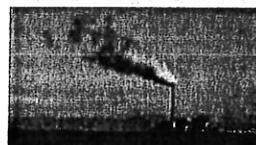
Naperville purchases power from the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, of which it is a member along with 31 other municipalities and a co-op.

City Manager Doug Krieger said Naperville is paying more for power than anticipated due to numerous factors including market volatility, unexpected trends in the residents' electrical usage and government regulation.

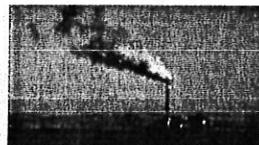
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There also was a significant cost overrun in the construction of one of the IMEA's investments, the Prairie State Energy Campus in southern Illinois.

The city's controversial smart meter program was not a factor in the utility's budget woes, Krieger said, since it replaced other projects in the capital budget.

Councilman Doug Krause asked why the city hadn't been taking action sooner, saying "alarm bells should have been going off." Krieger said the utility had a \$5 million surplus last year and roughly \$16 million the year before, so there didn't seem to be a need to adjust.

Councilman Bob Fieseler was critical of IMEA leaders.

"I'm pretty convinced ... that there's been mismanagement in IMEA and I think they could have done a much better job controlling costs of Prairie State," he said. "I think they were responsible for delivering data to us that went into our rate study that didn't hold up."

IMEA President and CEO Kevin Gaden said by phone Tuesday he understands the frustration, and maintains the agency has been well-managed. He said rates have gone up due to the energy market and believes Naperville and others in the IMEA will benefit in the long run from the group's investments.

In the meantime, to fill Naperville's budget gap, Public Utilities Director-Electric Mark Curran said his department has identified \$7.6 million in cuts it can make to operating and capital spending over the next two years. City staff also made a handful of recommendations including a rate increase of either 6 percent or 7 percent in each of the next two fiscal years.

"I believe with a 6 percent increase we're still going to beat ComEd on the residential market," Councilman Grant Wehrli said.

Councilman Steve Chirico also said he could accept 6 percent increases.

"This will lead to the least amount of pain on the residents, but it continues to keep pressure where it should be, which is on the expense side," he said.

The majority of councilmen ultimately agreed to support a 6 percent increase starting May 1 and a 7 percent increase next spring. Because the electric rate is just one portion of the bill, the overall bills would rise slightly less than those percentages. The average resident who is now paying \$92.79 per month will see their monthly bill rise to \$97.69 this year and \$103.75 next year.

That still leaves the utility with a \$2.8 million deficit in two years and no reserves. Krieger said the electric utility will take out a loan from the Water Department to cover its costs in the meantime.

The recommendation will go before the Public Utilities Advisory Board before being brought back to City Council in late March.

Melissa Jenco is a Tribune reporter. Gary Gibula is a freelance writer.

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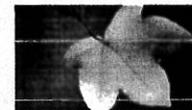
Photos: Morton Arboretum



A history of Naperville



A history of Lisle



Your photos: Naperville and Lisle

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Breaking Free

Wentz Concert Hall, North Central College | Naperville

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Kathy Kosins with Jeremy Kahn

Wentz Concert Hall, North Central College | Naperville

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Jennie Garth Book Signing

Anderson's Bookshop | Naperville

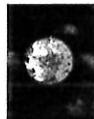
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