

Ottoville eyes raising sewer rates

Written by Stephanie Groves

Tuesday, January 29, 2013 1:23 PM -

OTTOVILLE — The village of Ottoville held its monthly council meeting Monday night and addressed an array of business matters.

In an effort to increase village revenue, council studied comparable sewer rates from the villages of Continental and Kalida and entertained the possibility of assessing an additional 25 cents per 1,000 gallons of water, raising the current price from \$4.25 to \$4.50. At this time, the current quarterly rates include \$12 for sewer, \$10 for water and \$66 for water delivery. If the proposed increase would take effect, it would generate approximately \$8,000 a year in additional revenue for the village.

In fiscal news, council approved the motion to transfer \$50,000 from the general fund into the street construction fund.

Mayor Ron Miller reported that the first phase of the installation of 16 new LED street lights and four meters has been completed. The plan is to track the kilowatt usage of the lights and determine the energy cost savings, or return on investment (ROI). After six months, the village should have acquired sufficient data to analyze the system's energy efficiency.

“By fall, we should have an accurate reading on our savings,” Miller emphasized. “Purchase of additional lights may be slated later and hinges on the budget .”

Council reflected on some old business. On Nov. 26, Village Council approved the purchase of 11.757 acres of Niedecken property in the Industrial Park and will utilize the property for commercial development. The land costs \$7,000 per acre, bringing the total purchase price close to \$82,300. At this time, the title search is under way, and the overall process of purchasing the land is moving forward as expected.

In new business, members discussed the Fire Mutual Aid Addendum with Ottawa village, which is an annual contract for mutual aid for fire protection that requires other districts to pay for the use of the aerial ladder truck. According to the addendum passed by Ottawa village council in

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December, any of the entities included in the agreement will be required to pay \$2,000 when the ladder truck is dispatched, regardless if it is cancelled before the truck is enroute. The truck will then cost an additional \$200 per hour until the truck is marked back in service. The truck will also be manned by four Ottawa firefighters and additional charges will be assessed for lost or broken tools and appliances. Mayor Miller is apprehensive about the costs associated with the service and recommends researching other options, including using American Township's ladder truck.

"The truck is a big outfit and if we use it, we better know where it is going before we call," Miller spoke with caution. "We also need to know where the water supplies are."

Ottawa Chamber of Commerce members presented a model of the village's four new entrance signs and spoke on verifying each landmark's location and described the installation.

Each sign is 8 feet long and 5 feet tall, made of 3/4 inch aluminum and will be bolted down onto a one foot high, 6,000 pound concrete slab. The village paid for two of the four signs, at \$19,000, and Chamber picked up the balance. H&M Machine & Welding donated the concrete, bolts and re-bar needed to complete the installation, which will take place when the weather is conducive. The signs will also be highlighted with either solar or electrical powered lighting.

The Board of Public Affairs has been researching the cost to repair the firehouse. The department's station renovations include interior painting of the floor and walls and replacement of existing metal walls. The total anticipated cost for the work is \$25,000 to \$26,000. Quotes include \$20,000 to paint the flooring and striping in the fire bay, storage and utility rooms. During the assessment of completing metal fabricated wall structures, an issue arose regarding the condition of the electrical wiring and boxes. There is also a water leak in the roofing which seems to be amplified by snow and ice.

"The system is outdated and needs to be replaced," Miller stated. "I'm not sold on painting the floor. That [the electrical work] needs to be taken care of before any painting of the floors."

The plans to renovate the fire station is in the works to prepare the village while hosting the 139th Northwest Ohio Fire Convention (NOVFA) on June 13-15 this year. The proposed detailed cruise and parade routes were presented to and approved by council members. The

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three-day event will draw similar numbers of fire departments, (110) and guests registered (1,200) as last year's convention held in Delphos.

The next regular meeting is set for 7 p.m. on Feb. 25. PUBLIC