**WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2022**

**5:45 p.m.**

**VERNDALE CITY HALL**

**101 SW BROWN ST**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ardith Carr, Tara Erckenbrack, Daryl Jacobson, Jim Runyan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  Tony Stanley

**STAFF PRESENT:** Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer; Matt Uselman, Public Works Manager

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Clif Allen, Moore Engineering,Trinity Gruenberg, Verndale Sun;Lynn Crawley, David Desrocher, Amos Self

The purpose of this public hearing is to provide an update on the Water Tower Project and allow for public comments.

Mayor Erckenbrack opened the public hearing at 5:45 pm.

Allen stated that this project started four (4) years ago when Well #1 exceeded Nitrate levels. Allen stated that the findings of Preliminary Analysis showed the Water Tower was in need of replacement. Allen stated that Meter Replacement was added by amendment to the PER. Allen stated that DEED provided funding for the Water Tower project. Allen stated the following: Contract A, Water Treatment Plant was completed in 2020 by Eagle Construction for a cost of $2,539,975.44. Contract B, Water Distribution was completed in 2020 by J & J Construction for a cost of $357,611.45. Contract C, Meter Replacement was completed in 2021 by Dakota Supply Group for a cost of $113,076.91. Contract D, Tower Replacement was completed in 2022 by Maguire Iron for a cost of $798,500.00. Crawley asked if the Nitrates were coming from the Water Tower. Allen stated no, they were coming from the ground water, which is why the Treatment Plant was built. Crawley asked why her water tested normal two years ago. Allen stated that the Treatment Plant was completed two years ago. Desrocher asked if there had been any complaints about the taste of the water. Uselman stated no, he's had compliments on how it tastes better. Desrocher stated that they had to put a filtration system in because his wife couldn’t drink it. Carr stated that the water is better now then before the Plant was in use. Erckenbrack stated that she is very satisfied with the water here. Self stated that the Family Life Church absolutely loves the water; the coffee pots work better. Erckenbrack stated that she no longer uses a water softener and doesn’t get the mineral deposits in the shower anymore.

Mayor Erckenbrack closed the meeting at 5:53 pm.

**Submitted by: Attest:**

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Melissa Current, City Clerk/Treasurer Tara Erckenbrack, Mayor