

Board of Education Special Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
January 30, 2012

Vice-President Crinda McConville called the special meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 6:33 p.m. on January 30, 2012, at the Village Hall in Bartley.

Present: Steve Daffer, Tom Sughroue, Crinda McConville, Kevin Potthoff, and Superintendent Clayton Waddle.

Absent: Duane Teter and Steve McConville .

Visitors: Larry Blackman, Donnie Sughroue, Jim Morris, Jason Neseth, Kristy Ruggles, and Cody Gerloch.

Vice-President Crinda McConville observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by Sughroue, to excuse Duane Teter and Steve McConville from the meeting. Ayes: Daffer, C. McConville, Potthoff, and Sughroue. Nays: None. Absent: S. McConville and Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Sughroue, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Daffer, C. McConville, Potthoff, and Sughroue. Nays: None. Absent: S. McConville and Teter. Motion carried.

Vice-President Crinda McConville stated that the meeting notices were placed at both school buildings, the Post Offices in Bartley and Indianola, the banks in Indianola and Bartley, and publicized in the Indianola News.

Information was provided to the Village of Bartley and the Southwest School Board prior to the meeting comparing rates of the Village of Bartley, City of Indianola, Twin Valleys Public Power District, City of Cambridge, and the McCook Public Power District. Also included was the usage of the new high school and overall cost savings if the school were on the different rate plans.

Jim Morris and other village board members provided information on infrastructure projects relating to electricity and discussed recent power rate increases from Twin Valleys. Rate increases from Twin Valleys included 6.2% in 2008, 6.5% in 2009, 6.5% in 2010, 8.5% in 2011 and 4.1% in 2012. Each year the Village of Bartley increased the rates in town to match what was passed down from Twin Valleys with the exception of 2011 and 2012. Jim also stated that the village makes money by reselling power and makes about \$10.00 per service with the sewer charges. The village does not make money on water and trash.

Clayton Waddle explained that increases in other fixed costs by the school were also a concern for them just as the power rate increases were for the village. He also mentioned while the increases may have been passed on to all customers across all rate plans evenly, the school would receive a larger dollar increase than residential customers. It was mentioned that since November 2009, the school has paid approximately \$250,000.00 to the Village of Bartley for all accounts and services. Kevin Potthoff and Crinda McConville expressed that the school did not expect a rate change at this meeting, but that the school wanted to voice concern to the village as they bill the school for power. Other school board members voiced that sharing of information was the overall purpose of this meeting.

Jason Neseth suggested that it might be possible to combine all of the accounts at the village office to avoid the service fee charged by the village. The school has seven accounts with the village, and the rate per service hookup is charged at \$10.65 per month. He also mentioned that perhaps the charge for non-use which is assessed for the football field and concession stand in the winter months might be alleviated.

Kevin Potthoff asked what the village was doing to increase economic development so that additional customers could help ease the rate burden. Jim Morris stated that the village was trying to take advantage of Tax-Increment Financing to help attract businesses to town. Donnie Sughroue mentioned that the village has been in contact with the West Central Nebraska Development District to help with potentially blighted areas of the village. He suggested that once less attractive areas of the village were eliminated, others may want to invest in housing, business, etc.

The village agreed to take the information to Twin Valleys Public Power. The school board and village agreed that a future joint meeting may be necessary so that both entities can find ways to work together.

Moved by Sughroue, seconded by Daffer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Ayes: Daffer, C. McConville, Potthoff, and Sughroue. Nays: None. Absent: S. McConville and Teter. Motion carried.