

**Village of Westville
Gas & Water Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
6:00p.m.**

Mayor Weese called the meeting to order. Present at roll call: Chairman McFadden, Committee Members Ellis and Hughes. Also present were Trustees Slavik and Gallion, as well as Village Treasurer Larson and Village Clerk Slavik.

Weese called the meeting to discuss the February 2021 gas billing, the direct-deposit refund the Village received for the excessive portion of the billing by MO Public Utility Alliance, and what should be done with the returned funds.

Treasurer Larson explained how the gas is billed and what refunds would look like; those would be in the form of credits on gas bills.

CAP, by contract, cannot be reimbursed. CAP resulted in around \$7,000.00 assistance, according to Gas & Water Clerk Michelle Burks. For Keystone to make the adjustments in the system would cost around \$3,000.00; that is what they charged in 2021 to set up a payment cycling on customer accounts with the high gas bill from February 2021. Michelle will get in touch with Keystone regarding crediting the customers through the system. There could be an attorney fee involved in going after the refund.

Those who have moved away would not be eligible; those who are not current would be made current and anything remaining would remain as a credit on their account. For those customers who have passed away, no credits would be applied or sent out.

McFadden solicited consensus that the Village should not profit off of the customers. Consensus is that the entire refund should be returned to those billed, given the exceptions above.

Larsen had hand-outs depicting the plight of the water department and the need to visit increasing rates and capital improvement fees. He thought rates were last increased in 2010.

A demolition contract between the Village and B&B Construction was mentioned in case the board had questions. The board is satisfied with the contract. The Mayor will sign it so that 311 S. State can be raised.

The committee meeting ended with a motion by McFadden and a second by Ellis at 6:45p.m.. Meeting adjourned.