

Council approves water contract with county

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BY MARIAN MCMAHON
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MADISON VILLAGE

Council had further discussion about the contract with Lake County to supply the Village Water Works Utility with potable drinking water at the Aug. 17 council meeting. The ordinance approving the contract was on third reading.

Council reviewed the contract with some changes in language per concerns expressed previously.

One issue was water pressure and Randy Rothlisberger, Lake County Department of Utilities sanitary engineer, confirmed that was set by the elevation of the water tank on River Road and would not be changed.

"That is set there to provide uniform service to (customers in the area)," Rothlisberger said. "There is no way to change the pressure at the Village line without actually changing the elevation of the tank."

The average pressure is 50 to 75 pounds per square inch (psi).

Village Administrator Dwayne Bailey said it seemed to be about 65 psi at the road and the Madison Fire District's connection is lower, which would increase the pressure slightly for it.

The question arose of what might happen to the water pressure should there be some significant development in the area served by Madison Village.

"The concern was we have design points based on our booster pump station with a level of performance for our system, especially if we had our water tower out of service, in the absence of a second connection," Councilmember John Hamercheck said.

He asked that the county pretty much guarantee to provide water in the range of

50 to 75 psi due to concerns that significant development along Route 20 would make it impossible for the Village booster station to maintain decent water pressure.

Rothlisberger said they are obligated to provide a minimum of 20 psi, but the system was designed to provide a minimum of 35 psi. As for the higher range, LCDU does not even guarantee that for customers next to the county water treatment plants.

He explained the county water tank on Middle Ridge Road should prevent serious problems with water pressure. LCDU's master plan calls for a second feed line to that tank in the future.

Hamercheck expressed further concerns with the contract and the possible loss of service due to unforeseen circumstances.

Rothlisberger said the county did have several contingency plans, including agreements with neighboring counties, as well as backup generators.

"Even during the power outage of 2004 we never lost pressure," he said.

Extended discussion continued on other points.

Hamercheck said he was concerned because there had been contracts which were misinterpreted or not so well-written and he wished to avoid those problems.

"There's a reason we need to be precise," he said.

Councilmember Ken Takacs stated the current contract was due to expire at the end of the month and summarized the Village's options. He said he believed the contract was good and they could not expect to cover every single issue.

"You have to do what you think is in the best interest of the community and the constituents right now," he said.

Hamercheck noted he