

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 25, 2020 9:00 A.M.
VIA ZOOM

Officials Present: Chairman Galicki, Councilmember Nairn, Mayor Koons, Administrative Assistant Galicki

Visitors: Dave Conley, Illuminating Company/First Energy; David and Tracy Murray, Morningside Dr.; Collin Cunningham, CVT, Greg Heilman

The Mayor discussed the time involved in dealing with such matters and said he preferred it be addressed by the Committee instead of in a Council meeting because of the expense. Conley asked if the committee had received the quote he obtained for having the line buried, and Galicki verified he did, and Nairn stated it was less expensive than she anticipated, but added that it was still a lot of money. Conley agreed, and said that the issue with doing it would be that there would still be two poles, at the north and south ends of the property. He added that it is in the right of way, so it would be in the line with the existing poles. Galicki asked Conley whether the pole would be in the middle of the front of the Murrays' house, or if it could be off to the side. He wanted to mitigate the impact on the homeowner. Conley said in the original plan where the wire would go overhead, it would essentially be in the center. He said it could move possibly 10 or 15 feet one way or another, but it could only go so far. They try to consider aesthetics and making things symmetrical. Galicki suggested Conley offer this to the Murray's as an option. Nairn asked if the front of the house faced Green Valley Dr. or Morningside Dr. Conley said the driveway for the house is on Morningside Dr. Nairn thought it was a sideload garage, so the house would face Green Valley Dr. Conley did not know. She was trying to picture what street the pole would be on and what side the front of the house actually faced. Conley said the pole would be on Morningside, and if the house faces north, it would not be on the front of the house. Nairn thought this was better. Conley clarified that the home faced north.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. when the Murray's joined the meeting, and stated the meeting pertained to the placement of a CEI pole at 71 Morningside Dr. He asked Conley to provide the information he obtained. Conley advised that at the previous meeting, he was asked to determine the cost to bury the lines at 71 Morningside Dr. instead of the planned overhead construction to improve safety and liability in operations of the utility line in the area. The cost would be approximately \$36,000, and would include a utility pole on the northern end of the southwest corner of Green Valley Dr. and Morningside Dr. The wires would cross the road and then go underground south to the southeast corner of the property in the right of way in line with the other primary lines. Another pole would be placed here for the wires to come out and get in line with the other wires that run behind the property to the south. This would be 100% customer billable. The other question Conley was asked to investigate related to tagging trees for possible removal on the eastern side of Morningside Dr. to accommodate the line. Conley stated he discussed the matter with his team and supervisor, who had 30 years of experience in the electric industry, and found that removing the trees was not an appropriate

course of action based on the number of trees that would unnecessarily be removed. CEI does not like to remove resident owned trees where possible, and did not think it would be right to ask any resident to remove that much nature unnecessarily when the same effect could be achieved with the original plan of moving over on the eastern side of Morningside Dr. with the overhead feed and the one pole.

David Murray thanked Conley for his research and asked why two poles would be necessary. Conley explained that a separate pole would be needed to take the wire under the ground. It would then run across Green Valley Dr., south in the right of way adjacent to the Murray's property, and then emerge to the south which would then require a pole to bring the wire up in line with the primaries that travel east to west on the southern portion of the property.

Conley stated that with the original plan to go overhead, the pole that would go in the right of way splitting the span symmetrically, but there could be a little movement of 10 to 15 feet one way or the other in the placement of the pole. Typically, CEI tries to split the spans right in the middle for aesthetics and to hold the wires more evenly. However, this would be an option for the Murrays to move the pole north or south 10 to 15 feet. Murray stated this would be appreciated because one of their biggest objections was that the original location designated for the pole was right in the middle of an area they cleared. If there were leeway where the pole could go closer to trees where it would blend more, he would greatly appreciate this. Conley said this was something that could be done, and a meeting could be arranged with the Murrays with the Field Supervisor.

Tracy Murray stated this was a monopoly and her hands were tied. She felt a battle could not be won with a company the size of the Illuminating Company. She advised they attempted to share what they were feeling and appreciated that Conley listened, but stated it was certainly a shame. If there was agreement that this was what had to be done, she said they had to do what they had to do. The Mayor asked if the Murrays were looking to move it as far north as possible, to be in the northeast corner of the property. Tracy Murray stated that no matter where it is placed there would be lines running through her yard. Whether it was to go in the center or 10 feet over, it was still going in their yard and there would still be wires running across their entire property. As a homeowner, she felt there was nothing else she could do but agree because there was no other power company for them to use. She stated that they were stuck. They tried to take the right approach and have a conversation, but ultimately, CEI would be putting the pole in their yard. She said it was a darn shame that this was occurring for one power outage. Murray stated that their power went out the previous Monday, but had nothing to do with this line, and yet the other lines would not be addressed, just this one. She reiterated again that it was a shame.

The Mayor stated that with the issue of the pole, that it was settled and had to be at that location give or take a few feet. In the long term, there was an issue of the Lake Louise power situation that needed to be examined. For today, the Mayor thought the discussion was done about the pole. Tracy Murray stated it was what the Mayor decided. Murray stated that as a taxpayer, she would like to see the Mayor fight for the residents of South Russell to ensure the property values are taken care of. She described it as a colossal mess in the Lake Louise neighborhoods with wires and lines. She stated that if a taller person jumped up in the Murrays yard, it would be

possible to touch the lines. She stated that she would hope that the Mayor would fight for the residents' property values, and said it was such a shame.

The Mayor stated that was fair enough and he would be glad to be held accountable to see some improvements in the Lake Louise neighborhood. He did not see any change coming with the pole, however. Tracy Murray stated she did not really see much of the Mayor giving his input on alternative solutions with their situation. She felt he had his mind made up at the beginning of the conversation and everyone was going through the motions over the last few weeks. However, she stated that this was what he chose to do, and it is what it is and there is nothing the Murrays can do because there is no other choice for a power company. The Illuminating Company has a monopoly in their area, and the Mayor agreed. The Murrays stated they would move on, plant some trees, and go from there. David Murray stated that the small victory for them was that when the process began, there was to be a pole placed in the right of way right in front of their yard without their knowledge in a spot that they really did not want. So, if the last four weeks of conversation bought them 10 or 15 feet, he wanted to have this conversation because a more strategic placement of the pole would be better than what was originally planned. He wanted to explore this option, and Conley agreed and said he would work with the supervisor to coordinate a time to meet before the pole is set. Conley added that it would be necessary to "re-oops" it, so there would be the marking organization who would be coming out to mark the property, and the Murrays should be aware of this.

Tracy Murray stated her husband was a lot kinder than she, and that she saw it as a 100% lose lose situation.

The Mayor asked if there were any other comments and adjourned the meeting at 8:14 a.m. Tracy Murray asked if the Chagrin Valley Times was present in the meeting, and the Mayor verified he was and provided his name to the Murrays.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Galicki". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dennis Galicki, Chairman