



## Agenda Abstract

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: Nov. 14, 2022  
Department: Community Services  
Agenda Section: Regular  
Public hearing: No  
Date of public hearing: N/A

#### PRESENTER/INFORMATION CONTACT

Margaret Hauth, Assistant Town Manager

#### ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED

**Subject:** Discussion of streetlight acceptance along dedicated public streets

**Attachments:**

Rate information and discussion

**Summary:**

Duke Energy is the primary provider of street and area lighting in town. The town pays the electricity costs for nearly 800 streetlights. The majority are fixtures mounted on wooden poles that also carry the overhead electric service network throughout town.

With mandates to install underground utilities, many newer neighborhoods have also opted to install decorative poles to hold the streetlights to improve the look of their neighborhood. These poles carry a decorative cost to cover long-term maintenance and replacement costs. Different fixture types also carry different costs and provide varying levels of public benefit by lighting the street (or not).

The town's long-standing policy has been to not accept decorative lights. Some newer neighborhoods are resisting this policy. They note that the residents did not select the fixtures used and the transfer of HOA responsibilities to include street lighting is a surprise.

**Financial impacts:**

Roughly 25% of the monthly cost for decorative fixtures is for a decorative fee charged by Duke that cannot be billed separate from the base fee. The attached document provides more detail.

**Staff recommendation and comments:**

This can be viewed as a fairness issue, not unlike solid waste collection in townhome neighborhoods. Additionally, more compact development leads to a denser street network with more lights, increasing the town's long-term operation costs.

**Action requested:**

Staff is asking whether the board wants to adjust/update its streetlight acceptance policy.

Staff expect more detailed streetlight requirements to be created following the adoption of the Comprehensive Sustainability Plan to address energy use, but some intermediate guidance is needed.