



Minutes of September 2, 2014

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on September 2, 2014. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on August 28, 2014

1) **Roll Call**

Members present: President Tipple, Commissioners Gehin, Otto, Rebman, Winters.

Others present: Dick Boers, Dave Erickson, Deb Geier, Valerie Swanborg, Terry Larsen, Dan Kerntop, Maryanne Groat; Ken Ligman, Becher Hoppe Associates; Tonia Speener, Clark Dietz; Todd Utecht.

2) **Approve Minutes of August 5, 2014 meeting**

Motion by Mr. Rebman to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2014 meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Otto. Motion approved unanimously.

3) **Staff Report on Utility Operations**

- Well No. 11 – Staff chlorinated 3 times and was able to get the required safe tests without needing outside help to disinfect. Well is sampled quarterly.
- Cleaning of Clear Well – million gallon clear well was cleaned and inspected. Remainder of storage facilities will be done later this year.
- Effluent pH – had a few glitches with the effluent in August at the WWTP.
- Fecal Coliform Test Results – had two failures in a row. Staff cleaned the UV light system which is used from May-October, increasing the performance of the UV system. A meter can be added to current system so that staff can monitor to help avoid these issues. Increased light intensity and are currently running sand filters to make sure the results are where they should be.
- Hydrogen Sulfide Media Not Performing – methane gas has to be cleaned prior to use by the turbines. Tried using a different type of filters that was lower in price, but the filters are not appearing to work as well as was hoped.
- Hydrogen Sulfide Testing Program – staff met with Ken Ligman, Becher Hoppe, to set up a hydrogen sulfide testing program.

Motion by Mr. Winters to accept the staff report as presented and place on file. Seconded by Mr. Rebman. Motion carried unanimously.

4) **Consider request for billing adjustment – Todd Utecht**

Mr. Todd Utecht explained his request for a billing adjustment. On December 12, 2013, water utility read the meter at his rental home at 1703 N. 2nd St., and based on the usage the bill was over \$1000. He stated that on December 20 he received the bill, and he further indicated that he also received a letter stating that there was high usage. He indicated that he fixed a problem with a toilet the same day he received the letter. He feels he owes the first \$1000, but then the next

quarter the bill had gone higher and he doesn't feel he is responsible for the use of the water. He filed a request for a sewer adjustment which was denied. He then went on to the Attorney and Mayor's office seeking resolution, however no action was taken. He further filed a request with the PSC, they indicated that an adjustment could be made where there was an unknown leak.

Terry Larsen indicated that quarterly reading was taken on December 2, and that a letter was mailed on December 18, with the bill being mailed at the end of December. Mr. Utecht indicated that he fixed the in the lower unit the same day he received the letter advising of a high usage. Mr. Utecht indicated that he has the same tenants in the property at that time are still in the property. The June bill was also high at 31 units however the September 2 reading came in at a usage of 11 units.

Motion by Mr. Winters to remove late fees since the bill was in appeal, and to offer the lowest rate after what the typical bill would have been for the December and March bills. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Utecht added that he has a number of rental homes and that he wants to be able to disconnect the bills instead of outstanding bills going to the property taxes. Requested to have added to the agenda for next agenda.

5) Consider Utility funding of the 2015 Ortho Photography Project (Groat)

Dan Kerntop, GIS Analyst, explained the ortho photography project. Maps are used for a variety of mapping options for all departments and consultants. Maryanne Groat explained the financing of the photography and requested the utility to fund the project this year. Costs are expected to be approximately \$80,000. Ortho Photograph is done every 5 years as a consortium with other communities to provide the best costs. Previous mapping costs have not been charged to the Utility. President Tipple questioned if the costs for the next round of photography could be spread across all departments. For this year, costs would be split between the water and sewer utility.

Motion by Mr. Gehin to authorize payment of the ortho photography project for this year, with the understanding that there would be cost sharing for future photography projects. Seconded by Mr. Otto. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Winters questioned Ms. Groat about the amount of time that Engineering Department and GIS spends doing design work, and assisting the utility with other applications using the GIS. Mr. Winters requested information on the allocation for the next meeting.

6) Make recommendation regarding the purchase of a Fixed Network Meter Reading System (Request for Proposals were opened by the Board of Public Works on August 26, 2014)

Ms. Geier explained that RFPs were sent to Sensus, Itron, Badger and Neptune suppliers. The RFPs requested a system that would be completely compatible with our current meter reading system and radio boxes/meters. Since our current boxes were put in approximately 8 years ago, at a cost of over \$1,000,000 it was not the intent of the water utility to have to replace reading boxes. Ferguson Water Works, representing Neptune was the only vendor to provide a proposal in the amount of \$84,500.

Motion by Mr. Winters to approve the purchase of the fixed network. Seconded Mr. Rebman. Motion carried unanimously.

7) Make recommendation regarding the purchase of aluminum sulfate for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (Bids were opened by the Board of Public Works on August 26, 2014)

Hydrite Chemical was the low bidder at \$0.1090/lb.

Motion by Mr. Rebman to approve purchase of aluminum sulfate from Hydrite chemical for

the Wastewater Treatment plant. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously.

8) Consider meeting with Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District to discuss Future Phosphorus Requierments and Cooperative Agreements

A number of years ago Wausau Water Works Commission met with Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sanitary District leaders to discuss future of the two wastewater plants. After numerous meetings, the discussion was dropped. Ken Johnson recently called Dave Erickson regarding phosphorus requirements. One of the issues being looked at was a process to do phosphorus removal. Discussion was also initiated again about there being only one wastewater plant, which would likely be in Rib Mountain. Mr. Johnson requested a joint meetitng of the utility commissions to discuss possibilities. Mr. Gehin indicated that in his travels he has seen issues in many communities regarding the phosphorus concerns. Mayor Tipple added that Mosinee did an analysis on their WWTP and it was found that going with RMMSD was a more cost effective solution.

Mayor Tipple directed staff to schedule a meeting with RMMSD in October to explore opportunities to discuss possible consolidations.

Dick Boers gave a heads up regarding a request from AT&T to renegotiate lease fees for the West Wausau Avenue tower. This item will be on the agenda for the October meeting.

9) Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mr. Otto to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Rebman. Motion carried unanimously.