



## Minutes of September 29, 2014

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:35 p.m. in City Hall on September 29, 2014. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on September 23, 2014.

### 1) Roll Call

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

Others present: Dick Boers, Dave Erickson, Deb Geier, Valerie Swanborg, Steve Opatik, Becher Hoppe Associates; Tonia Speener, Clark Dietz; Don Swailes, AECOM; Pat Peckham, City Pages; Ken Imhoff

### 2) Approve Minutes of September 2, 2014 meeting

Motion by Mr. Rebman to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2014 meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Winters. Motion approved unanimously.

### 3) Staff Report on Utility Operations

- FEMA has formally denied request for reimbursement of the winter operations.
- Tapping Team competed at WWA annual conference, taking a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish.
- AT&T has requested a reduction in costs for their antenna rental on the W. Wausau Avenue water tower. Originally had three cell providers on the tower, but now have two. Tower was put up basically to allow a place for the cell towers. The antenna fees have paid for the water tower. Looking for a 30 year contract.
- Sept. 3-4 had a little over 3 inches of rain overflowing the wastewater plant. DNR was notified of the overflow. Have made some procedural changes to help alleviate future problems. Suspect that there was a considerable amount of storm inflow that further complicated the problem. DNR wants a detailed report by November 1.
- Working with Sierra Environmental regarding the Hydrogen Sulfide removal. Media needs to be replaced from time to time, but the current media is not working well. Will likely switch back to the product that we were originally using even though the cost of the product is more.
- JF Ahern has completed the demolition phase of the Final Clarifier

Motion by Mr. Rebman to approve the staff report as presented and placed on file. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously.

### 4) Consider Potential Claim for Damage Caused by Replacement of Sanitary Sewer Lateral at 606/608 Prospect Ave.

Ken Imhoff, owner of 606/608 Prospect is having issues with his sewer lateral as it was reduced from a 6" to a 4" at the property line. Mr. Imhoff's parents owned the property previously and had noticed issues for a number of years, but it wasn't until recently that it was televised and the issue determined. Estimates to repair would be about \$3000. The sewer in the

street is approximately 20 feet deep, and therefore would be quite costly to repair in the street. It is believe that the changes to the pipe occurred in approximatley 1991. Mr. Gehin questioned the condition of the pipe from the house into the smaller section of the pipe. Mr. Imhoff did not know. Mr. Erickson felt it would be best to do the work on the owner's property, rather than trying to make the changes in the street. Mr. Imhoff is reluctant to take the responsibility to get the work done. Mr. Imhoff is noticing a backup at the property every 7-8 months. Mr. Gehin asked Mr. Imhoff what he's looking to have the utility do. He indicated that Ric's Sewer Service suggested taking a 4" pipe from inside the house and extend all the way to the Fernco in the 4" main in the street. Mr. Gehin questioned Mr. Imhoff whether he'd be willing to do the work, through a contractor, and cost share. Mr. Gehin indicated that he is not in favor of the utility doing the work on private property. Mr. Imhoff advised that he was not in favor of cost sharing. Mr. Gehin indicated that he'd like to see a couple of estimates and the owner take the responsibility of hiring the plumbing contractor. It was noted that sanitary sewer laterals are the responsibility of the property owner from the home to the connection at the main. Mayor Tipple questioned if the utility could assist in obtaining estimates. Commission advised to obtain three estimates and then bring them back to the next meeting.

**5) Consider Disconnection Policy**

Deb Geier explained the process for disconnections along the anticipated cost. It is expected that additional staff would need to be hired to administer such a program. It was also noted that PSC Code requires that disconnection programs cover all customer basis, that they cannot be limited to only rental property. Currently we are allowed to use the property tax rolls to collect on delinquent accounts.

Motion by Mr. Otto to maintain our current collection process of using the property tax rolls, and not a disconnection policy. Seconded by Mr. Rebman. Motion carried unanimously.

**6) Consider Costs and Potential Charges for Cleaning Sewer mains related to Schofield List Station Issues**

Dave Erickson addressed the Commission regarding issues at the Schofield Lift Station where scale broke away causing a manhole to plug up on Wausau's side. Costs were \$1,664 to clean the sewer. Question was to whether Schofield should be billed or if the costs should be absorbed by Wausau. Inside of the pipe does have a significant amount of aluminum from some of their industries. Mr. Gehin indicated that a second interceptor was installed to help eliminate issues of backing up since this area is very flat terrain.

Motion by Mr. Gehin to negotiate with Schofield on charges relating to issues of the scale in Schofield's main. Mr. Winters amended the motion to bill 75% of the fees with the condition that if this occurs again they will be required to install a cleaning chamber. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously.

**7) Update on Cleveland Avenue List Station Replacement**

Dave Erickson requested a quote from Becher Hoppe for engineering fees. Mr. Erickson questioned whether he should have obtained additional quotes from other engineering firms. Commission directed him to obtain additional engineering quotes.

Mr. Gehin excused himself from the discussion. No action taken.

**8) Discussion and Possible Action on Proposal from AT&T to Renegotiate Lease Fees for the West Wausau Avenue Tower.**

AT&T was slated to pay \$28,000 for the next 5 years, but they have requested a reduction in rental fees to \$19,000 with a 5% accellorator every 5 years.

Mr. Winters suggested going back with a starting point of \$21,000 with a 5% compounded accelerator. Length of lease would be 30 year lease, with a guarantee of remaining on the tower for 5 years.

Motion by Mr. Winters to offer a contract at \$21,000, 5% compounded accellorator for a 30 year lease, guaranteed for 5 years, subject to review by the City Attyorney. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously.

9) **Adjourn**

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