



Minutes of November 4, 2014

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on November 4, 2014. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on October 29, 2014.

1) Roll Call

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

Others present: Dick Boers, Dave Erickson, Valerie Swanborg, Ken Ligman, Becher Hoppe Associates; Tonia Speener, Clark Dietz; Don Swailes, AECOM

2) Approve Minutes of September 29, 2014, and the October 14, 2014, meetings

Motion by Mr. Rebman to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2014, and the October 14, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Winters.

Erickson indicated that at the September 29 meeting he was looking for input regarding Item #7, but that is was his understanding the agenda, as worded, did not allow for action by the Commission. He suggested placing the item on a future agenda for further discussion.

There being a motion and a second, Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, with the noted change, passed unanimously.

3) Staff Report on Utility Operations

- Mr. Boers reminded the Commission that AT&T requested to reopen their contract. They had offered \$19,000 a year for the antenna on the West Wausau Avenue tower. The Commission moved to ask for \$21,000 a year, which AT&T has agreed to. The City Attorney has been in contact with their attorney to work on the details of the contract. Mayor Tipple questioned the length of the contract. Mr. Boers indicated it is proposed for 30 years for \$21,000 for the first five years. Every five years after that, the amount would be increased by 5%. Mr. Gehin asked if there was a penalty for cancelling the contract. Mr. Boers indicated they are to give 6 months' notice before they can remove the equipment. With this new contract, AT&T is guaranteeing at least five years. Mr. Otto questioned if Boer's department would be responsible for maintaining the contract every 5 years. Mayor Tipple stated staff would tickler the contract to ensure the increase happens.
- Mr. Boers stated they are finished with four out of six of the storage facilities. The two towers, the clear water well in the plant and the West Wausau Avenue reservoir have been completed. Next Wednesday Lane Tank will be here to inspect and clean the Elm Street reservoir and the 72nd Avenue reservoir. Pressure relief valves were installed on hydrants and the pumps were run continuously while the towers were drained. A pump will have to be left on for the two larger reservoirs, along with eight or nine pressure relief valves. Residents may call regarding water spraying from the pressure relief valves on the hydrants. The Fire Department will be notified

and an employee will be on-call if the need to turn more pumps on arises. It has been recommended that the inside of the Brown Street tower be painted next summer. The other tower has approximately 12 blisters on it that should be blasted and painted. Estimates for the work will be provided in the near future. Monday the two reservoirs will start to be drained and pressure relief valves will be on hydrants in the low pressure areas. Mr. Gehin questioned how long it will be out of service. Mr. Boers stated it depends upon how long it takes to clean, but he would like it back online by Friday. Mr. Gehin asked if the clear well was taken out of service. Mr. Boers replied no as divers were used.

- Mr. Boers has received a notice of non-compliance regarding lead and copper. Thirty samples were taken and we were allowed 10% to be over 15 parts per billion of lead to be in compliance. Forty letters were sent requesting samples. We only received thirteen responses from the first forty letters. Of those thirteen samples, twelve passed. The one that failed had 110 PPB of lead. We have never seen results that high and this property has been sampled seven times prior with results not over 3 PPB. Mr. Boers called the DNR indicating the number could not be right, but they indicated the sample has to stay on record. Thirty more letters were sent requesting samples as seventeen more were needed. Eleven samples were taken, all of which passed. Six more samples were needed and two could fail to remain in compliance. Unfortunately, three failed. One failed with 16 PPB and two failed with 18 PPB. The four that failed were resampled. The one that had 110 PPB retested with 40 PPB. The other three were under 15 PPB. The DNR is now requiring more sampling. Mr. Boers has found out that stray electricity may magnify lead by 100 times. The home with the highest results does not have a lead service, just lead solder. Mr. Boers believes they may have stray electric going through their water line. He is going to try to get the homeowner's permission to get an electrician in their house to check for stray electric. Mr. Rebman suggested checking if the phone line is grounded to the water system. Mr. Boers is hoping the DNR will let us resample if stray electric is the case. Last Thursday Mr. Boers collected ten samples throughout the City for water quality. Ten more samples will be collected this Thursday to see if the water quality is changing. The DNR is requiring 60 samples between January and June of 2015 and another 60 samples between July and December. If those samples pass, the City would be back in compliance. In the meantime, the DNR is also requiring the City to replace 7% of the lead services each year the City is not in compliance. There are 7,000 lead services, which means 533 services need to be replaced from the watermain to the stop. However, the City cannot force the homeowner to replace their lateral. Since 1986, approximately 3,000 lead services have been replaced. Whenever a street is reconstructed, lead services are automatically replaced. Last year 91 were replaced and those homeowners were asked if they would like their lateral replaced at their cost. Of the 91, only one replaced their lateral. In Mr. Boers' opinion, replacing the lead services on the City side will not do any good. A meeting will be held with the DNR and possibly the EPA and Mr. Boers will try to get a compromise. When Mr. Boers finds out the date of the meeting, he would welcome anyone who wishes to go along with him. The City of Marshfield failed in 2006 and they were allowed to do a unidirectional flushing, which was very successful. They have been in compliance ever since. Tweaking our treatment and possibly doing a unidirectional flushing may be satisfactory. Mr. Boers explained the sample collection process and indicated the City is at the mercy of the homeowner. The homeowner is provided a \$20 gift certificate for their inconvenience. A sample bottle along with written instructions is dropped off at the home. The instructions include not using anything that was

recently re-plumbed. The night before the sample, water should be run until it gets cold. Then the water is shut off and no water can be run in the home for 6 to 12 hours. The sample then should be taken on the first draw. The City is trusting that the homeowner is following the instructions. The Engineering Department has estimated the replacement of 533 services at \$3 million. Mr. Swales stated if the City has a plan and schedule, he doubts if the DNR would require the replacement of 7% of services. Mr. Boers stated a public notification is required by the end of the month, along with mailing an educational brochure. Mr. Boers took two samples of water leaving the plant. If those come back non-detect, we are putting the water to the homes with no lead present. Mayor Tipple recommended sending a copy of the press release and brochure to the Commission members.

- Mr. Boers stated the Gateway installation will be a couple of weeks behind because the equipment is not ready. We hope to still get it installed before winter.
- Mr. Erickson stated we are on track to meet our discharge limits for October.
- Final Clarifier No. 3 is being put back together by Ahern Construction. They anticipate having it completed by the first week in December.
- Most of the sludge has been hauled. Hauling has been delayed by the wet weather and sludge cannot be put on the fields once it freezes. If there is an early winter and late spring, they may have issues with storage.
- Becher Hoppe has been working on specs for the digester mixing and heating system upgrade. Mr. Winters questioned if the capacity will be changed. Mr. Erickson stated the capacity will not be changed, but it may improve our efficiency in terms of digestion. The mixing compressors are out of date and need to be upgraded. Mr. Ligman stated they will anticipate better mixing and heating which will better decompose the bio solids and produce more methane for the microturbines. So from that point of view, capacity will be increased.
- Becher Hoppe also put together a report regarding the September treatment system overflow. The DNR has acknowledge that they received the report and advised the City to go ahead with the recommendations, such as getting the Final Clarifier back online, removal of the bar screen, and repair of a manhole to help with infiltration.
- Staff has not been able to get an estimate regarding the sewer lateral at 608 Prospect Avenue, but is scheduled to meet a contractor on Thursday. Mr. Gehin indicated there is not a tree in the front yard, but there may have been one at one time. He cannot believe there would be a root problem there any longer.
- A monitor is in place on the Industrial Park Interceptor line to monitor the hydrogen sulfide levels. More information on this will be obtained within the next couple of months.

Motion by Mr. Otto to approve the staff report as presented and place on file.

Seconded by Mr. Rebman. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Update on joint meeting with Rib Mountain Metro Sanitary District

Mayor Tipple provided minutes from the joint meeting with Rib Mountain Metro Sanitary District. This was just an initial discussion of the potential of partnering ranging from phosphorous compliance to merging operations. Approximately 10 years ago initial discussions were also held due to pending retirements. Potential merging could be way off into the future, but it is something to keep in mind while making plant improvements. Minutes of the joint meeting were taken by staff of the Rib Mountain Metro Sanitary District. Mr. Gehin noted that the minutes were brief, but set the tone of what was discussed. He also stated the need to talk with Schofield if anything advances. Mayor Tipple indicated there is a study underway. Mr. Winters stated the Rib Mountain District appeared more eager for this than Wausau is.

- 5) **Make recommendation for the purchase of a ¾ ton four-wheel drive truck**
- 6) **Make recommendation for the purchase of a tool box (painted and installed) for a ¾ ton four-wheel drive truck**

Agenda items 5 and 6 were taken jointly.

Mr. Boers stated staff is currently using a 2002 four-wheel drive truck. There were front end problems and when working on repairs a rust hole through the frame was noticed. The truck can no longer be safely used. Mr. Boers obtained new quotes without a truck box. Mr. Boers explained that because of the severe winter last year, he was on the street more than usual. He noticed that two trucks are taken to the work site. The tools were kept inside the trucks to keep them from getting full of snow and ice. It was determined that a tool box truck with compartment storage would work the best. Ford submitted the lowest quote at \$24,171. Mr. Boers also obtained quotes for a painted and installed tool box. Truck Equipment submitted the lowest quote at \$8,143.

Mr. Rebman moved to approve the purchase of a ¾ ton four-wheel drive truck from Ford in the amount of \$24,171 and the purchase of a tool box (painted and installed) for a ¾ ton four-wheel drive truck from Truck Equipment in the amount of \$8,143. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

7) **Adjourn**

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