



Minutes of March 3, 2015

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on March 3, 2015. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on February 25, 2015.

1) **Roll Call**

Members present: President Tipple, Commissioners Force, Rebman, Winters (arrived at approximately 1:35 p.m.).

Others present: Joe Gehin, Maryanne Groat, Allen Wesolowski, Dick Boers, Dave Erickson, Deb Geier, Tonia Speener, Clark Dietz; Don Swailes, AECOM.

2) **Approve Minutes of the February 3, 2015 meeting**

Motion by Mr. Rebman to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Force. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

3) **Director's Report on Utility Operations**

Mr. Gehin stated the Director's Report was previously provided to the members and he briefly highlighted that staff is working towards getting compliance regarding the lead and copper ruling. Mr. Gehin and Deb Geier have attended two neighborhood meetings to obtain volunteers for testing.

The rate hearing was held this morning. One gentleman who owns laundry mats in town was concerned about the increase. He seemed to be more focused upon the wastewater side. Mr. Force questioned how widely publicized the meeting was. Mr. Gehin replied a notice was in the City newsletter. Mr. Force was surprised that there was only one complaint at the hearing and feels it may have not gotten the attention of the general public. He added that a rate increase of any kind is usually not met with any enthusiasm. Geier received numerous calls after the newsletter went out. However, the calls were regarding lead issues and not the rate increase.

Mr. Gehin stated staff will be meeting with the DNR regarding items on the sanitary survey report.

The water distribution crew has been very busy. The water temperatures are getting to a point where we have asked some property owners to run their water. He cautioned that this should only be done at staff's direction as a prior read needs to be taken to give a proper credit.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant is on track to meet permit limits for February.

The intern at the Wastewater Plant has accepted a job at the City of Marshfield and his last was February 20th.

The contract with the Marathon County Health Department for the Mercury Reduction Program has expired. A new contract is being reviewed by the City Attorney.

The digester mixing project and the CIPP project are out for bids, with bid openings on March 10 and March 17 respectively.

The annual Black Gold meeting will be scheduled for the middle of March. This meeting is with area farmers regarding sledge spreading. This is held in cooperation with Rib Mountain Metro.

There has also been freezing issues on the sewer collection side, although it is not as bad as last year.

Mr. Force questioned the number of testing sites needed regarding lead. Mr. Gehin explained there are two testing levels. One is called compliance and 60 tests are needed from properties with a lead service. The other sample is drawn differently and 300 samples are needed. In both cases access to the home is needed and cooperation is needed with the property owner regarding the protocol. Approximately 45 samples have been taken to date. Another 60 tests will have to be completed after July 1st. Discussion followed on testing and compliance.

Motion by Mr. Rebman to approve the Director's Report as presented and place on file. Seconded by Mr. Winters. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

4) Make recommendation for the purchase of water meters. (Bids were opened by the Board of Public Works on December 12, 2014.)

Mr. Gehin explained that a test was completed of the Badger meter and unfortunately the meter was not in compliance with the spec. The Badger meter does not monitor for remote leak detection and other features. Mr. Winters finds it hard to believe that Badger did not meet the spec as they are a premier supplier. Badger submitted a bid of \$58 versus \$117 from Neptune. Geier explained that Badger has a meter that could provide leak detection data but it does not work with the Neptune system. Mr. Gehin indicated in order to make the Badger meter work the City would have to change out all the radio boxes. Mr. Force questioned if any meter other than Neptune would have met the spec. Geier thought that Sensus could have, but they informed her that they would not meet the spec. Mr. Force questioned the frequency of the data collection for the Neptune. Geier replied it can be taken every minute and it can be set to our needs.

Mr. Rebman moved to approve the purchase of Neptune meters. Seconded by Mr. Force.

Mr. Force questioned the total amount and the budget amount. Geier stated \$75,000 is budgeted every year for meter replacement with approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 spent yearly.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve the purchase of Neptune meters passed 3-1 with Mr. Winters the opposing vote.

5) Make recommendation regarding Request for Proposals for Water Quality Investigation. (Proposals were opened by the Board of Public Works on February 27, 2015.)

Mr. Gehin excused himself from the meeting for agenda items 5 and 6.

Geier explained that three proposals were received for the Water Quality Investigation. AECOM was \$11,900, Becher Hoppe was \$22,700, and Clark Dietz was \$18,180. Staff recommends the proposal from Clark Dietz as they provided more parameters for testing. Additionally, Clark Dietz will work with Abigail Cantor, who completed the 2007 study.

Mr. Winters questioned if it would be appropriate to contact AECOM and ask them to include the additional parameters for testing so there would be an apples to apples comparison. Mr. Force questioned if specific parameters were included in the RFP and Geier replied no. Don Swailes, AECOM, stated they only included the tests that were listed in the RFP. Geier stated the more tests that are taken will provide better information in order to get our water quality in line with what is needed for lead compliance. Mr. Winters suggested that future RFP's include a standard list of tests.

Mr. Winters moved to approve the Water Quality Investigation proposal submitted by Clark Dietz in the amount of \$18,180. Seconded by Mr. Rebman. Motion passed 3-1 with Mr. Winters the opposing vote.

6) Make recommendation regarding Request for Proposals for Water Hydraulic Model. (Proposals were opened by the Board of Public Works on February 27, 2015.)

Geier stated that three proposals were received for the Water Hydraulic Model. AECOM was \$108,662, Becher Hoppe was \$40,300, and Clark Dietz was \$84,660. Staff recommends accepting the low proposal from Becher Hoppe. Geier explained the variance in price is due to Becher Hoppe already having a model of our system. Therefore, they have the basic information that needs to be updated.

Mr. Rebman moved to approve the Water Hydraulic Model submitted by Becher Hoppe. Seconded by Mr. Force. Motion passed 3-1 with Mr. Winters the opposing vote.

7) Review and approve the 2015 capital budget.

a. Approve solicitation of bids for interior maintenance painting and minor repair of the 500,000 gallon elevated Brown Street Water Tower

Mr. Gehin stated staff would specifically like approval to move forward with bids for maintenance of the Brown Street Water Tower, which is estimated at \$125,000. Mr. Winters questioned if this was approved under the previously approved capital budget. Mr. Gehin stated it was placed on the agenda because he wanted to make sure it was clear. Mr. Winters stated the budget list includes \$7.8 million in borrowing with \$2.9 million in existing debt service. Borrowing that much would triple the debt service cost. Mr. Gehin stated the largest cost was the potential replacement of lead services. At this point staff is only asking for authorization to acquire bids for maintenance of the water tower. Mr. Winters questioned the amount of authorization that was previously approved to borrow and how much this will add to it. Mr. Winters also questioned if this would come from operating funds or if it would be borrowed. Mr. Gehin indicated this would come from operating funds and added that borrowing would have to be approved by Council.

Mr. Winters moved approve solicitation of bids for interior maintenance painting and minor repair of the 500,000 gallon elevated Brown Street Water Tower. Seconded by Rebman. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Mr. Gehin stated authorization was received to go out for bids for the digester mixing project and the CIPP project. The CIPP project will come out of the operating budget and it is believed that \$1.4 million can be used from the replacement fund for the digester project. Staff is waiting on confirmation from the DNR regarding using the replacement fund. If the replacement fund can be used, staff does not anticipate having to borrow for the project. Other projects will come up at the Wastewater Treatment Plant where funds will not be available and a borrowing package will have to put together. Groat indicated the City will have borrowing this year for the pools, Thomas Street and other projects and she further explained the borrowing process. Mr. Gehin stated some utility projects may be put on hold due to the budget.

8) Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mr. Rebman to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Force. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.