



Minutes of December 1, 2015

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on December 1, 2015. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on November 24, 2015.

1) **Roll Call**

Members present: President Tipple, Commissioners Gehin, Gisselman, Rebman, and Force (arrived at 1:35 p.m.).

Others present: Eric Lindman, Dave Erickson, Deb Geier, Ken Ligman, Becher Hoppe.

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

Motion by Mr. Rebman to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gisselman. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

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

Lindman stated another set of letters was sent out regarding private wells. Property owners were requested to certify that the well no longer exists by signing and returning a form. Geier said approximately 275 letters were sent out and 78 certifications have been received. So far this year there have been 31 wells abandoned, 47 permits paid for, and 37 are pending action. Those 37 will be receiving a follow-up letter. Three properties are still turned off and one was given a disconnect notice yesterday. Geier has been working with the vendor of the new software for the Inspections Department. Well permitting will be a part of this software.

Lindman welcomed Raymond Younger as a new Distribution Maintainer.

Staff is working with WPS to update the electric service at Well #9. The cost for WPS is approximately \$3,700 with remaining work to be done in-house.

The SS plant has been taken out of service for maintenance. The equipment can still be used, but there is a lot of wear that would require extensive work to extend the life of the equipment. Staff is looking at other alternatives. Currently we haul at about 8% to 9% solids with a pumper truck. Staff is looking at alternatives to thicken the sludge so it could be hauled with a dump truck.

Well #6 is under rehabilitation. Sediment and minerals have built up on the casings. Rehab of the well should improve the efficiency.

Geier stated there have been 733 meter exchanges completed this year. 235 radio boxes have been replaced. 214 turn on's have been completed. Turn on's can also include installation of a meter. 66 temporary turn offs have been completed, which are typically done for plumbing work. 102 meters were removed from service. Approximately 80 of those represent seasonal meters for pools and the Park Department. Lindman explained that the budget for meter replacement has been increased for 2016, which should result in an increase of these numbers.

Lindman did not have a specific update to provide on the possible acquisition of the Mathie property. The Community Development Department is taking the lead on this along with acquisition of other properties.

The Wastewater Plant is on track to meet affluent limits.

Ahern Construction was on site November 16 and 17 for Final Clarifier #3. The clarifier was put back into service on November 18.

Treatment Plant staff finished emptying the north secondary digester on November 16. Erickson stated this was different than the normal sludge and it was taken to the landfill.

The draft tube mixers for the primary digesters have arrived.

LW Allen set up the SCADA controls and the south primary should be put into service Wednesday or Thursday. Then clean out of the north primary will begin. Ligman stated the completion date of the contract is in February, but believes the project will be completed mid-January.

Dixon Engineering inspected the gas ball on Friday, November 6. Most of the corrosion was in the bottom of the tank. An estimate for repair is being prepared. There are a number of issues, but staff will work with Becher Hoppe to determine the most cost effective way to get the ball back in service.

Today staff is getting familiar with the trailer mounted jetter.

Motion by Mr. Gehin to approve the Director's Report as presented and place on file. Seconded by Mr. Rebman. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Gehin complimented the staff on the work done with the gas ball.

4) Make recommendation for the purchase of Water Treatment Plant Chemicals. (Quotations were opened by the Board of Public Works on November 24, 2015.)

A list of vendors and pricing was provided. Staff is recommending purchasing the chemicals from the low bidders. Mayor Tipple questioned why only one quote was received for hydrated lime. Geier explained that there is basically only one vendor of the chemical in this area. Mr. Gehin questioned where Occidental Chemical is based from. Geier replied they are located in the Milwaukee area and we have purchased chemicals from them in 2015 without issues. Mr. Gehin noted that the prices provided for sodium silicate are within a tenth of a cent and one vendor is local. Geier indicated that all prices were to include shipping. Lindman stated the preference of the procurement policy is to use local.

Mr. Gehin moved to approve the purchase of hydrated lime from Graymont Capital Inc. for \$155 per ton and sodium hypochlorite from Hydrite Chemical Co. for 0.8600 per gal as recommended by staff. Mr. Gisselman seconded.

Mr. Gehin moved to approve the purchase of sodium silicate from Wausau Chemical for 0.1790 per lb. Mr. Force seconded.

Mr. Gisselman questioned the Utility's background with Wausau Chemical. Geier stated Wausau Chemical has been a good provider. Additionally, they are located next door and have been able to accommodate the Utility with getting product to them quickly if they have run short. Mr. Gehin noted that use of this chemical was recommended by Jim Cherwinka instead of phosphorus products.

There being motions and seconds, motion to approve the purchase of hydrated lime from Graymont Capital Inc. for \$155 per ton, sodium hypochlorite from Hydrite Chemical Co for 0.8600 per gallon and sodium silicate from Wausau Chemical for .01790 per lb. carried unanimously 5-0.

5) Discussion and possible action budget modification for 2015 Street Construction Project B.

Lindman stated this street construction project was on Grant Street and 11th Street. A significant amount of additional rock excavation was needed for the installation of the utilities. This average totaled \$15,260.

Mr. Force moved to approve the budget modification in the amount of \$15,260. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

6) Discussion and possible action on Change Order #4 for August Winter & Sons, Inc. regarding the Digester Mixing Replacement Project.

Lindman stated this change order is still within the budget for this project. The change order totals \$2,090 for the addition a drain line for each heat exchanger. Ligman explained there are 4 heat exchangers and this change order covers all four. This is an additional safety feature in case everything breaks down and is a minimal cost for a big safety factor.

Mr. Rebman moved to approve Change Order #4 for August Winter & Sons, Inc. regarding the Digester Mixing Replacement Project. Seconded by Mr. Force. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

7) Discussion and possible action on the approval of a sewer service line connection on Hawthorne Lane for a new home.

Lindman explained a water service line was approved for this property last month. At that time, the owner was proposing to install a mound system. Staff worked with the owner regarding assessment fees, and the owner would now prefer to have community facilities. Extension of this sewer line was included in the 2016 budget; this would authorize an additional service to this property. The owner will be responsible for 200 feet of frontage of the main line, a lift station charge and the total cost of installing the service line.

Mr. Force moved to approve a sewer service line on Hawthorne Lane for a new home. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

8) Discussion and possible action regarding Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District Facilities.

Lindman indicated that Rib Mountain has completed a facility plan. He has reviewed the plan and there was no discussion about additional flows from the City of Wausau. Staff will be moving forward with a feasibility study next year with possible regionalization, along with extension of our plant to see what it would look like economically as well as longevity. Lindman will continue to periodically talk with Ken Johnson from Rib Mountain.

Lindman further explained that there are key things Rib Mountain is proposing to do. They are not looking at cost savings from a maintenance standpoint and capital involvement up front will be at least \$17 million. There is minimal growth proposed for the next 15 to 20 years. Most of the items proposed for the next five years will be on the existing plant. Mr. Force hypothetically asked if a capacity expansion would come in the second phase if there was an agreement to accept Wausau sewage. Lindman confirmed. Mr. Force would hope the option would remain open in case it becomes cost effective for Wausau. Discussion followed on attending next week's Rib Mountain meeting.

Mr. Force stated the plan referenced phosphorus requirements and questioned the timing for the new requirements. Ligman explained there are 3 permit units, which is 15 years. They have not set the limit yet, but it is anticipated to be set in two years. Mr. Gehin believes it will be stepped in. Lindman feels as the limits are lowered, it will be a driving force for regionalization. Mr. Gehin noted that he would like to look into using waste heat that WPS is dumping. He added that when WPS was approached in the past they wanted to charge the cost of

natural gas and there was no benefit. Ligman believes new equipment would not be the driving incentive for regionalization. The bigger issue is what it will cost the City to keep its facilities running for the next 20-50 years.

Mr. Force questioned if the City competes with Rib Mountain on bio-solid disposal. Erickson stated it has been friendly, but that could change. Now when we calculate how much sludge that can be applied to a field, the nitrogen level is looked at along with how much the crop uses. Phosphorous levels are not looked at. Phosphorous is built up in the soil on the farm fields we apply sludge to, especially if they use manure or if we have been applying for a long time. We may have to search hard for new fields. Fields further away would increase trucking costs.

Mayor Tipple feels a drop dead date needs to be delineated as he does not want to monitor it for 5 years and then find out we are a year late.

9) Monthly Financial Reports and ongoing tracking of the budget.

Lindman indicated that the year to date monthly water revenue is averaging at \$395,000 versus the budget of \$432,000. The recent monthly revenue reflects 20% rate increase. The year to date monthly sewer revenue is averaging \$420,000 versus the budget of \$423,000. Mr. Gehin noted that we have gained on the water side due to the rate increase, but it is still not where we would like to be. Lindman stated in November the delinquent utility accounts were transferred to the tax rolls, with approximately \$298,000 for water and \$332,000 for sewer. Geier believes these amounts are down from where they have been. She thought in the past the delinquent accounts were close to 750,000. The delinquent amounts are paid with the first installment of the property taxes. Geier noted that there was a change in the law this year where the landlord can request to have tenants outstanding bills applied to CCAP. The City collects payment from the landlord but the amount is then essentially a lien against the tenant.

10) Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mr. Gisselman to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.