



Minutes of March 1, 2016

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on March 1, 2016. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on February 24, 2016.

1) **Roll Call**

Members present: President Tipple, Commissioners Force, Gehin, and Gisselman.

Others present: Eric Lindman, Scott Boers, Dave Erickson, Deb Geier, Ken Ligman, Becher Hoppe; Steve Schultz, Becher Hoppe.

2) **Approve Minutes of the February 2, 2016 meeting**

Motion by Mr. Gehin to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2016 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gisselman. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

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

Boers indicated inspections started today for the cross connection program. Hydro Corp is starting with the public authority buildings. He believes there were 45 inspections scheduled for this week. Businesses will be getting letters two weeks prior to their inspection date. Lindman received letters regarding inspections of the seasonal irrigation systems. These will be pushed back until those systems are reconnected. Mr. Force questioned if any feedback has been received from the inspections. Boers replied no and noted that Hydro Corp seems to have a good system as far as notification and completing the inspections.

Lindman indicated the contractor summary of the inspections of Wells 6 and 9 were included in the packet. The specific capacity for Well 9 prior to the treatment was about 27 gallons per minute per foot. This shows that maintaining the wells gives us additional production and efficiency. Mr. Gehin questioned the water quality of Well 9. Boers replied the water quality is good. Boers noted the only well with iron and manganese levels creeping is Well 3. Mr. Gehin indicated there had been talk about replacing Well 9. The test well appeared to have better yield and moving it to the east would improve capacity. Lindman noted the quality could change. Boers stated in the reports he has seen the sites closer to Well 11 had better capacity. Ligman stated there is a set of plans for new Well 9 located to the east of the existing well. They had tried to receive stimulus money for this well but that did not come through.

Boers provided an estimated cost savings with the purchase of the correlator. Mayor Tipple questioned the cost of the correlator. Boers replied \$22,500. Mayor Tipple suggested outlining the cost savings in a future newsletter.

Lindman stated at the last meeting Speener with Clark Dietz brought up that they have assisted other municipalities in getting the word out about lead in drinking water. Boers met with Speener and a PR representative. Clark Dietz had handled Racine's issues with lead. Speener had several ideas but a lot of the items they had talked about were things that Wausau has already done, such as the mailings required from the exceedance and attending neighborhood meetings. Due to the issues in Flint, Mr. Force is surprised there have not been more local inquires. He feels

the neighborhood meetings are a great way to provide information to residences. Geier had attended a neighborhood meeting in December. A number of items were talked about such as lead and winterizing. She will also address some of these items again in upcoming newsletters. Geier added that Kent Street will be reconstructed this year. The Engineering Department has been talking with those residents about replacing service laterals. Geier has received a number of calls regarding the deferred payment program. Discussion followed on Madison's program where they used revenue from antenna rentals to provide cost sharing for lateral replacement.

A significant watermain break happened on 13th Street where the tower was drained in approximately 15 minutes and the road became undermined. Lindman stated the crew responded quickly and isolated the line before significant pressure was lost, which prevented from having to issue a boil order. Mayor Tipple questioned what would trigger a boil order. Lindman replied if 25% of the lines lose pressure, the DNR would require a boil order. Boers indicated approximately 300 calls were received ranging from no water to low water pressure. This specific pressure zone has 1,882 lines and therefore we were well below the 25% threshold. This was the fifth break on the stretch of watermain from East Wausau Avenue to Augusta. The line from East Wausau to Crocker has had 14 breaks. This break alone cost approximately \$37,000. To replace the line will cost approximately \$100,000. Mr. Force questioned if money is set aside in the budget for emergency purposes such as this and Lindman confirmed. Mr. Gisselman stated other breaks have happened on East Wausau Avenue by Colonial Manor through the years. Boers indicated a lot of the area was developed at the same time and has the same vintage pipe. The pipe made during this time frame is notorious for being poor.

Lindman stated when petitions were first received for annexation from the Town of Maine, a couple of the petitioners stated that the Town of Maine told them that regardless if the town became incorporated, the City of Wausau would serve them with water and sewer facilities. At first he thought the petitioners incorrectly interpreted the information from the Town of Maine; however, about six additional petitioners said the Town told them the same thing. Lindman did inform the petitioners that the City would not serve properties that are not located within the City. Mr. Gisselman feels the rest of the Council should be informed of this when an update is provided at a future Council meeting. Mr. Gehin noted that all of the annexations have been direct annexations and no one has been annexed against their will. Mayor Tipple questioned if the requirements of the contract with Brokaw have been reviewed and if the flow is being monitored. The feedback Lindman has received is that the Town has no intention of talking with the City. The Town believes if they become incorporated the contract with Brokaw becomes null and void and they do not have to communicate with Wausau. One of the conditions of the contract is that the water system cannot be expanded outside of Brokaw. Lindman does not believe the City has any intention of shutting the water off, but there would have to be discussions held about how to move forward. Lindman will need direction from the Attorney's Office due to the lawsuit. Geier noted that coordination should also be done with the DNR and PSC.

Lindman has had conversations with the representative for the Mathie Construction property. At this point they have decided not to request annexation, but are willing to sell the property. Lindman has spoken with Community Development and Finance. They have asked him to present options to Mathie, such as a land contract.

Congratulations were given to Scott Boers. He was promoted contingent upon a probationary period and obtaining additional training. He has completed the requirements ahead of schedule and has been fully appointed as Superintendent.

The treatment plant is on track to meet permit limits for the month of February.

Erickson and Fabel met with Marathon County, DNR and Rib Mountain. The DNR explained proposed changes regarding the disposal of amalgams from dental offices. Erickson explained that both Wausau and Rib Mountain have historically had high affluent results on mercury. A variance was obtained from the DNR for permit limits. One of the conditions of the variance was to have a mercury minimization program. Marathon County has been implementing

this for quite a few years on a five year contract basis. The DNR is looking at changing regulations for dental offices that will be more stringent, which may change what the County has been doing for the City. Within the next year, the City should have more information on what the new regulations will involve. Therefore, the County has proposed a one year contract for 2016. Mr. Force questioned if the goal of the program is to minimize the discharge of mercury. Erickson explained an ordinance was passed a number of years ago requiring dentists to install amalgam separators, which minimized mercury at the source. The County follows up with the dentists to insure they are properly disposing of the mercury. The County also provides educational information to HVAC contractors so that mercury switches are collected.

Erickson attended the WWOA North Central Region operators meeting in Marshfield. A presentation was provided on hydrogen sulfite issues. The CMOM program is required to be updated by August 1. Erickson stated there are things that can be done regarding hydrogen sulfite issues, such as adding chemicals and structural updates on a manhole that has the biggest problem. Lindman stated different options are being looked at, such as slip lining. This could cost between \$200 to \$300 per foot. Ligman noted that Ken Rye is testing different locations to try to identify the source, which will guide the City as far as temporarily adding chemicals at the location which would benefit the most. Mr. Force questioned if nearby neighbors have complained. Erickson stated the problem is within the system. Discussion followed. Erickson is going to attend a meeting regarding the CMOM (Compliance Maintenance Operations Manual) program, which is mandated by the DNR.

Lindman stated RFP's for engineering services regarding two lift stations are proposed to go out this week. These will be opened at the end of March with approval by the Commission in April.

The annual Black Gold meeting held with Rib Mountain is scheduled for March 15. Traditionally, farmers and town officials have been invited to this lunch meeting regarding the spreading of sludge.

Lindman stated MEP Solutions is a company that can sell natural gas versus buying it directly from WPS. They will be looking at our usage to see if there would be any cost savings.

The north primary digester has been put back into service. Sludge was found to have leaked into the cover of the secondary digester. Staff is waiting to found out the extent of the problem to evaluate the need for repair. Ligman stated a seal leak will be repaired on Thursday.

A RFP is being prepared for two RAS pumps.

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

6) Discussion and possible action on an Amendment to the Primary Digester Covers and Equipment Replacement Contract with Becher Hoppe.

This item was taken out of agenda order. Due to his employer, Mr. Gehin excused himself for the discussion of this item.

Lindman stated this amendment is for additional design costs. Initially there was \$22,500 for the study and preliminary design. Another \$89,400 included the design and bidding work. This amendment will add \$4,500 to complete the design services. Staff recommends approval of the amendment.

Mr. Gisselman moved to approve the Amendment to the Primary Digester Covers and Equipment Replacement Contract with Becher Hoppe. Seconded by Mr. Force. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

At approximately 2:25 p.m., Mr. Gisselman left the meeting and Mr. Gehin re-entered the meeting.

4) Make recommendation for Water Treatment Plant PLC and RTU radios. (Proposals were opened by the Board of Public Works on February 24, 2016.)

Boers explained that currently the PLC is overloaded and occasionally locks up while it is reading. Some years ago it had flooded the plant out and there has been an increased number of situations since then. This would split operations and reduce memory requirement on the current PLC. P.J. Kortens and Van Ert both submitted similar scopes of work. Energenics submitted a different scope of work, which was greatly increased and staff does not see the need for that amount of work at this time. Staff recommends accepting the proposal submitted by P.J. Kortens. Mr. Force questioned if this was budgeted for. Lindman replied \$120,000 was included in the capital budget for this work. Mr. Force questioned if there would be additional costs for installation. Boers indicated the installation and radios were included in the cost. The existing PLC would be kept. Mr. Gehin asked if this was the equipment installed in preparation for Y2K. Boers said some equipment has been updated but the PLC is original from 1994.

Mr. Gehin moved to accept the proposal submitted by P.J. Kortens in the amount of \$54,980. Seconded by Mr. Force. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

5) Make recommendation for the purchase of a side discharge manure spreader. (Proposals were opened by the Board of Public Works on February 24, 2016.)

Lindman stated one bid was received, which was in the amount of \$51,500 with a trade in allowance of \$3,000 for a total of \$48,500. \$40,000 was budgeted for this purchase so \$8,500 would have to be pulled from the capital budget. Mayor Tipple questioned the condition of the existing unit. Erickson explained that every year it needs to be rebuilt. The existing spreader is 12 cubic yards and the trucks haul out 16 cubic yards. A larger spreader would be more efficient. Between the repairs, maintenance and new size, Erickson feels it would be well worth it. Mr. Force asked why only one bid was received. Erickson stated the spec requested a similar unit to the existing and it is not all that common.

Mr. Gehin moved to accept the proposal submitted by Swiderski Implement in the amount of \$51,500 (\$48,500 with \$3,000 trade in allowance). Seconded by Mr. Force. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

7) Discussion and possible action on Neptune/Gateway software proposal.

Lindman explained that the computer receiving this information has been having issues and the system completely shut down in January. The Water Utility has been working with Ferguson to get updates. Geier stated they have been online with this system for about a year. Staff has been working with the IT Department to get a server set up. Geier indicated there are a number of options available. Neptune could host this on a cloud server for approximately \$28,000 a year plus a one-time charge for training. Another option is for the IT Department to place the software on a server with an annual maintenance fee of \$17,000 a year. Geier questioned Ferguson if the existing software could be placed on a server. This is also an option with the cost of \$500 for an additional seat. This would fix the immediate need but would limit us for the future. Neptune is going to Version 4 of their R900 radio boxes. The current software the Utility is using is not compatible with R900 Version 4. It would read them but would not give any additional data. After Geier made a few phone calls, she was able to get the maintenance cost down from \$17,000 a year to \$2,700. This would be for the upgrade to the Version 5 software, which would provide capabilities to do more in the future. She also questioned the training costs as training was paid for when Gateway was initially installed but because of weather and other issues, a detailed training was not received. Therefore, the training costs have been reduced to \$750. The costs would be \$3,400 for the software upgrade, \$750 for training, and \$2,700 annual maintenance fee for support of the software system. Geier also noted the V4 radio boxes do have a 1 megawatt burst, which should provide a better range for picking up reads. Therefore, some of the additional Gateways that

were budgeted for may not be needed. She is also trying to negotiate a multi-year contract to hold the price. Mr. Force questioned the cost for the mapping module. Lindman feels there is not a benefit for the mapping module due to the current GIS system. Mr. Force asked if this was budgeted for. Lindman confirmed. Mr. Force congratulated Geier for obtaining the significant cost reduction.

Mr. Gehin moved to approve the verbal offer of a one-time charge of \$4,150 and the annual maintenance fee of \$2,700. Seconded by Mr. Force. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Mr. Force requested a report back to insure the costs offered verbally held up.

8) Discussion and possible action to extend water and sewer along Boot Lane to serve two new Habitat for Humanity sites.

Lindman stated Habitat for Humanity has purchased two sites on Boot Lane. Water and sewer are currently not located in front of these properties. Habitat would pay for half of the cost with the properties to the north responsible for the other half upon annexation. Costs for the installation would be paid for out of the miscellaneous line extension budget.

Mr. Force moved to approve the extension of water and sewer along Boot Lane to serve two new Habitat for Humanity sites. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

9) Discussion and possible action to replace the water and sewer main on 13th Street from East Wausau Avenue to Augusta Avenue.

Lindman provided a map that showed where breaks have occurred on 13th Street. Mr. Force questioned if there were still issues on East Wausau Avenue and Lindman confirmed. Lindman noted that from Augusta Avenue north to Brown Street the line has been replaced. Staff is looking for approval to replace the water and sewer main on 13th Street from East Wausau Avenue to Augusta Avenue. The cost is estimated at \$100,000 for the watermain. If the watermain is replaced, Ken Rye has also requested replacement of the sewer main as this line is proposed to be relined. Boers indicated a minimum of 170 feet of street, and possibly up to half of the street depending upon the frost, will be replaced due to the recent break so this would be a good time for utility replacement.

Mr. Force moved to approve replacing the water and sewer main on 13th Street from East Wausau Avenue to Augusta Avenue. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Mayor Tipple stated that rates are going up and to show the cost of breaks and aging infrastructure would be beneficial in a future newsletter. Mr. Force added that the street and curb have to be repaired anyway. An explanation of showing how we are trying to be efficient could also be included.

10) Discussion and possible action on a one-year Mercury Reduction Program Contract with Marathon County Health Department.

Erickson stated this item was talked about under the Director's Report and the contract is similar to the contract approved last year.

Mr. Force moved to approve a one-year Mercury Reduction Program Contract with Marathon County Health Department. Seconded by Mr. Gehin. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

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

Lindman stated the Water Utility revenue is approximately \$63,000 ahead of last year, which reflects the impact of the rate increase. Operating expenses are basically level with last year. There is a supplies and expense net credit of \$900, which is due to billing. There was a \$10,200 reimbursement for three hydrant repairs. Lindman noted the PSC report is due April 1.

2015 has not been reconciled yet. Once that is done, staff will meet if the Water Utility needs to borrow additional funds.

Lindman explained the revenue and operating expenses for the Sewer Utility are basically the same as last year. There are no noted concerns at this point. Mr. Force noted the operating expenses are up slightly when comparing this January to last January. Mr. Force questioned the impact on the operating expense and the possible impact on rates when the Utility borrows. Lindman indicated that borrowing is mainly for capital projects. Revenues are used for operating expenses. Discussion followed on the borrowing rate and bonds.

12) Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mr. Gehin to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Force. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.