



## Minutes of November 1, 2016

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on November 1, 2016. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on October 27, 2016.

### 1) **Roll Call**

Members present: President Mielke, Commissioners Abitz, Force, Gehin, and Rebman.  
Others present: Eric Lindman, Scott Boers, Dave Erickson, Valerie Swanborg, Steve Opatik, Becher Hoppe; Diane Thoune, Clark Dietz.

### 2) **Approve Minutes of the October 4, 2016 meeting**

Motion by Rebman to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 meeting. Seconded by Gehin. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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

Since the Director's Report is reviewed by the Commission members prior to the meeting, the Commission agreed by consensus to forego the reading of the report and ask questions on any items.

Force questioned what would happen if we are not successful in finding fields for the hauling of sludge. Erickson said it is supposed to be warmer so if it stays dry and less windy we will be in good shape. Worst case scenario is we would have to look at hauling some sludge to the landfill. Rebman asked if it could be burned at the bio mass plant. Gehin does not know if our solids have a high enough organic matter to do that.

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

### 4) **Make recommendation for the purchase of Water Treatment Plant Chemicals. (Quotations were opened by the Board of Public Works on October 18, 2016.)**

Lindman stated bids were opened for hydrated lime, sodium hypochlorite and sodium silicate. Boers explained that a couple of vendors who normally bid on hydrated lime did not receive the quotation packet because during the transition of staff, old mailing addresses were used. Staff felt it was only fair to throw out the quotations received for lime and rebid the product. He noted that the quotations that were received were over budget and would have had to be revisited anyway. The quotations received for sodium hypochlorite and sodium silicate can be accepted as they were less than last year and within budget. Rebman questioned if the quotations were sent out at the same time. Boers confirmed and indicated that some vendors will bid all three products while other vendors only bid on one or two. There are vendors that only bid on hydrated lime and not the other products. Lindman stated staff is proposing to go with the low bid for both sodium hypochlorite and sodium silicate. Gehin questioned if Hydrite Chemical has a facility in the Industrial Park. Boers is unsure if they have a small site locally as the sodium hypochlorite currently received comes from the Oshkosh area.

The committee agreed by consensus to approve the low quotations for sodium hypochlorite (Hydrite Chemical at 0.8390 / gallon) and sodium silicate (Occidental Chemical at 0.1500 / lb.).

**5) Discussion and possible action on sole source purchase for ClarIon 415**

Lindman stated this is the Alum/Polymer blend used at the Water Plant. Boers indicated it is specifically designed for use at our plant. Boers noted that this product and ClarIon 700 were both developed in the early 90's by General Chemical. Since then, they have decided it was not feasible for them to make it and Wausau Chemical bought the rights to ClarIon 700. ClarIon 700 is used in small amounts and a sole source purchase is not required. ClarIon 415 is used in a large quantity and Chemtrade owns the rights to this chemical. Chemtrade is also located in the Oshkosh area.

Motion by Rebman to approve the sole source purchase of ClarIon 415 from Chemtrade Chemicals. Seconded by Gehin. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Gehin feels the procurement policy should be modified and suggested looking into the County's policy regarding the dollar amount threshold.

**6) Discussion on the proposed LCR revisions from US EPA.**

Lindman stated when the EPA looks at revisions they will put out something called a white paper, which basically is the direction headed for state implementation. The EPA feels that partial replacements of lead service lines are more potentially hazardous than full replacement. Lindman believes the EPA may require a program to be in place to replace the private side lead service to the meter. After reading the white paper, Lindman feels the EPA is taking a strong stance. Abitz said the white paper indicates lead levels were 15 micrograms per deciliter in the past, which is now down to 1 microgram per deciliter. She questioned what Wausau's levels are. Force believes this is unknown as he is not aware of blood testing of children (1 to 5 years old) in Wausau. Abitz questioned if we need to check with Marathon County to see if there are any issues regarding this. Force believes if there are issues locally, the local health officials would be taking the lead.

Lindman stated an issue that we will run into regarding lease service line replacement is that according to the PSC we cannot use our utility rate money to pay for work done on the private side. Force said this was done in Madison. Lindman stated Madison did not use rate money. Force clarified that Madison used revenue gained from renting the space on their towers. Abitz asked how surrounding communities are handling this. Gehin replied they are all facing the same issue. Abitz questioned if new developments use lead piping. Gehin replied typically they use copper. Lead piping has not been used since approximately 1965 and lead solder has not been used since the mid 80's. Force noted that anything built prior to 1986 most likely has lead.

Force feels that it would make sense for communities affected throughout the State of Wisconsin to lobby together for the use of public funds to replace these lines. Gehin agreed. Discussion followed.

Abitz questioned how this would affect homes that are being torn down on Thomas Street and future redevelopment. Lindman replied new construction would have a new service. When the road is reconstructed there will be curb stops stubbed in and the old lead lines will be replaced. Boers explained that during street construction projects, the contractor removes lead lines and installs new services. Otherwise the Utility removes the connection at the main for lead services left in the street. Gehin used Chicago Avenue reconstruction as an example. The old lines were removed and new services installed from the main to the curb stop. Lindman added at this point it is up to the homeowner whether they want to replace the line on the private side. Starting in 2017, we will receive \$300,000 to use towards private line replacement. Boers explained that Madison offered a rebate program where they paid up to \$1,500 for half of the cost of the service from the curb stop to the house. Madison covered the other half. This was mandated under their ordinance. Abitz asked how Madison handles it if a homeowner cannot afford this. Boers believes they had a low-interest rate loan program.

Abitz inquired if this was anticipated to begin within the next five to ten years. Boers stated they plan on having a new rule in 2017. Gehin noted that this does not mean compliance would be required in 2017.

Boers stated another issue is lead sampling. The cost per sample is \$75 to \$100 by the time you consider staff picking the sample up, taking it to a lab, and lab fees. If this is required of every lead service in town, it would cost over \$100,000.

Force said the white paper indicates that Lansing, Madison and Boston are cities that have addressed the issue. He added that in Lansing the water, power and light company owns the line to the house.

#### **7) Monthly Financial Reports and ongoing tracking of the budget.**

Swanborg stated that both the Water and Sewer Utility are trending comparable to last year. Water is \$400,000 ahead on the net change of position from last year and running about \$100,000 off of budget. There were a number of large expense items, such as cross connection inspection, meter repairs, and well maintenance. Bills are beginning to come in from the construction projects. There was about \$200,000 in available cash at the end of September. The loan funds will be coming in November.

The Sewer side net change of position is \$840,000 with cash at \$4.3 million. She noted she has not seen the same amount of construction bills coming in on the Sewer side, but anticipates receiving them toward the end of the year with some to be received next year.

Force noted that both utilities show a dramatic decrease in expenditures for September and also in August for the Water Utility. Swanborg said last year the Water Utility had lead abatement expenses and on the Sewer side this is due to timing of the bills.

Lindman asked for an update on the Cleveland Avenue Lift Station Project. Diane Thoune, Clark Dietz, indicated construction has started and DPW has placed barricades to close the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Joyce Street. Equipment is on site. Excavation has taken place for the dewatering wells and they are in place. Today they are working on getting them up and running. The wet well for the new lift station is on site with hopes to get that in the ground this week but that is dependent upon getting the wet wells running. The site itself is torn up with a lot of spoil, which they hope to remove soon. They hope to have temporary power this week. The plan is to get the wet well in place, stud out sanitary sewers from it and leave it until the lift station is delivered. Gehin asked if they have to dewater to redirect the flow into the wet well. Thoune confirmed and explained the dewatering well is only needed while excavating for the wet well. They plan on getting the new lift station running by the end of the year. Erickson added that the existing wet well will be removed and replaced with a manhole. Because the existing wet well is so close to the 30" sanitary that the lift station discharges into, the contractor wants to sheet around the wet well to below the level of the new manhole structure, then punch a hole in the bottom of the old wet well and fill with rock. The contractor is afraid if he pulls out the old wet well entirely there will be some cave in which could possibly endanger the 30" sewer. Thoune was fine with this plan as long as proper fill is used and compacted. Gehin was questioning the work because he wondered if the 30" would be exposed so a sample core could be taken.

#### **8) Adjourn**

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

Lori Wunsch, Recording Secretary

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