



Minutes of December 6, 2016

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on December 6, 2016. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on November 30, 2016.

1) **Roll Call**

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

2) **Approve Minutes of the November 1, 2016 meeting**

Motion by Rebman to approve the minutes of the November 1, 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.

Abitz questioned the number of pre-winter hydrant checks completed and the number remaining. Sell did not have exact numbers but stated they are approximately 2/3 done. Gehin commented that not all hydrants would have a problem, only the hydrants with ground water issues.

Abitz asked what a new aqua ammonia pump would cost. Lindman stated Boers thought a new pump would cost double the cost to rebuild.

Abitz questioned when the orthophosphate monitor would be in. Erickson is expecting delivery in January and it will be installed by staff before hooked up to the SCADA system. Once installed instead of waiting five days for test results, it will give an indication right away. This means we will not have to add alum that we did not need to add. Force said this will provide a real time measurement.

Lindman stated the phosphorus levels may be over for November. Erickson does not have test results yet but believes we will be over. Force asked the ramifications of being over. Erickson replied the yearly CMAR report would probably be graded as a B rather than A. The limit is a monthly average of 1, which will change in the future. Gehin stated even though this shows on the CMAR as a blemish, he does not believe it holds the same weight as the monthly average for BOD. Lindman noted this could potentially cost at the end of the year as we may have to pay for the additional poundage of phosphorus over. Erickson further explained we pay per pound of phosphorus discharge, which is one reason to keep phosphorus down. He added there is also a cost for alum. The extra .1 or .2 over may cost a little, but alum is purchased every two weeks at \$2,500 a load.

Motion by Abitz 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 Hydrated Lime for the Water Treatment Plant. (Quotations were opened by the Board of Public Works on November 15, 2016.)

Lindman reminded the committee that approval was given last month to rebid the purchase of hydrated lime due to some vendors not receiving the quotation packet and only receiving one bid which was high at nearly \$208 per ton.

Force moved to approve the purchase of Hydrated Lime from Graymont Western Lime in the amount of \$158 per ton. Seconded by Rebman. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

5) Discussion and possible action on Amendment to Agreement with Becher Hoppe for additional paint inspections of the gas ball.

Lindman indicated the initial contract with Becher Hoppe included a number of inspections and we want to move forward with additional inspections to ensure the coatings are properly applied. Opatik reminded the committee that a lot of repairs and upgrades are being completed on the gas sphere. The sphere holds the digester gas which is then burnt in microturbines to produce electricity at the plant. Since it was built in the 40's, the work consists of a variety of things, such as cutting out areas around the metal supports, repairing and welding. The main purpose of the amendment is due to blasting off the existing coatings and recoating the inside and outside of the sphere. Their sub consultant, Dixon Engineering, was hired specifically to oversee the painting contractor. Dixon was budgeted for 4 visits for the entire project. There have been five visits already to inspect the painting of the inside. Part of this was due to weather and timing, along with working with the contractor to ensure a good job was done in cleaning the metal off and the recoating process. The amendment includes one more trip to look at the inside of the sphere and more visits for the outside of the sphere. Mielke questioned the number of trips needed for the outside. Opatik stated the amendment includes four. Ligman explained work on the outside should go better as they will be painting it at one time. The inside had to be done in pieces and it took more steps than anticipated. Rebman asked if the amendment covers the entire amount for additional inspections. Ligman confirmed. Abitz questioned the longevity. Ligman said the paint is specified with 15 to 20 years of life. Abitz asked if the ball would have to be replaced in 15 to 20 years. Opatik explained this is just looking at the coating. Ligman noted the ball is in good shape except in a couple of isolated areas. Erickson showed where there is a gap between sections. Opatik showed pictures of the worst area inside of the sphere. He explained when the sphere was built in the 1940's there was probably cork behind the area where the internal support touched the tank and since this has corroded away. The worst area, the side with the least amount of sunlight, had substantial corrosion. Gehin questioned if this will be pressure rated. Opatik said it will be pressure rated. The repairs are complete from the welding standpoint and the sphere was pressure tested to 40 psi, which was the original design pressure, and passed. The final say on the pressure is by the state boiler inspector and it may be around 33 psi instead of the original 40 psi. They are able to operate it at below 15 psi now but with pressure rating, testing and approvals they will be able to operate at more than double the pressure they are now. Force questioned how the gas is captured with the ball out of service. Erickson replied the biogas is being flared off.

Motion by Rebman to approve the Amendment to Agreement with Becher Hoppe for additional paint inspections of the gas ball. Seconded by Abitz. Motion carried unanimously 4-0 with Gehin abstaining from the vote.

6) Discussion and possible action to renew the agreement with Hydro Corp. for the Cross Connection Program.

Lindman explained that Hydro Corp. was hired to assist in getting the Cross Connection Control Program into compliance. A two-year contract was signed. This contract included a reevaluation of the progress at the end of the first year with an option to extend the contract. Currently Hydro Corp. is doing a good job and staff recommends renewing the contract for the second year with the costs to remain the same. Gehin asked if the DNR is happy with the progress.

Sell stated prior to the program, the City was less than a half percent compliant. Now there are 691 compliant out of 1,400 with full compliance anticipated by the end of 2017.

Force moved to approve renewal of the agreement with Hydro Corp. for the Cross Connection Program. Seconded by Gehin. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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

Swanborg stated expenses on the Water side are comparable to last year. The gain on the net fund balance is coming from the revenue increase. Expenses on the Sewer side are comparable to last year. There is a slight increase on the net fund balance for Sewer, which is from revenue increase. Gehin looked at what Brokaw has been paying on the Water side. Ever since they had a major leak, their numbers have been a little over 1,000 per month. Their numbers may be up if they were having an issue with bacte and doing some flushing. Sell stated they were having issues and upped their flushing to try to get their chlorine levels up to pass their bactes. She is unsure if this process is continuing. Sell indicated our levels at the station are consistent with the past and not a factor with Brokaw's levels. Force noted the water revenue side is exceeding every month expect for October and questioned the reason. Swanborg said the rate increase took about three months to cycle in. October last year is more comparable to rates this year so any variance is in consumption.

8) Discussion and possible action regarding acquisition of McGivern properties at 330 Adrian Street and 336 Adrian Street.

Motion by Gehin, second by Rebman to convene in closed session. A roll call vote was taken with all ayes.

9) CLOSED SESSION pursuant to 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

- Discussion and possible action regarding acquisition of McGivern properties at 330 Adrian Street and 336 Adrian Street.

RECONVENE into open session to take action on closed session item, if necessary.

Motion by Force, second by Gehin to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

11) 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

o:\common\Lori\commission\DecemberMinutes2016.doc