



Minutes of February 4, 2025

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 11:02 a.m. in City Hall on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on January 30, 2025.

Members Present: President Diny, Commissioners Robinson, Gehin

Force: 11:03 am, Watson: 11:16 am

Others Present: Eric Lindman, Scott Boers, Ben Brooks, Tonia Westphal/ClarkDietz, Susan Wojtkiewicz/Donohue

1) Approve Minutes of January 7, 2025 Meetings.

Robinson motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Gehin.

Motion carried 3-0.

2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Lindman highlighted the LSL update and the council approval of latest amendment with Community Infrastructure Partners as proposed by the DNR, once its uploaded, we should be able to move towards closing the 2024 loan. There's a construction update for the GAC with discussion in the next item, drinking water challenges, updates on interviews for water and wastewater, no further discussion on the leachate but future discussions will be scheduled.

Gehin questioned if we have anything that would be impacted by potential tariffs as we used to or have gotten items such as water chemicals some time ago out of Canada?

Brooks stated Trojan UV parts came from different parts of Canada but they're opening a new office in Michigan, we are in the process of paperwork, so we shouldn't be affected by it.

Boers stated we don't have anything reoccurring but our correlators come out of Canada so any maintenance we ship them back to Canada, but I don't know how the tariffs would affect them at this point. No water chemicals are currently coming from Canada.

Robinson questioned our efforts as it relates to the Sheboygan PSC filing/decision, they ran everything through the city, on their private side, there may have been an interest component to a portion of that program they tried to take the public side. The municipal environmental group was working on proposed changes, how, when and will it impact us?

Lindman replied no impact for us for 2025 because all the private side is being funded through principal forgiveness. As we move forward in future years, if funding remains available and we don't have 100% principal forgiveness on private side, that decision will affect us if there isn't a legislation change.

Diny stated we had three tours of the GAC separately, it's up and running and looks nice.

Robinson stated with all that was thrown at staff with the upgrades, staff has done an exceptional job and expressed his appreciation for the outstanding work that went into both the facilities, pressure staff were under to do their own jobs while bringing new facility onboard was very impressive and he appreciated their efforts.

Diny reiterated, the best water in the State.

Force questioned if the award to Wastewater was recorded because it was significant.

Brooks replied we haven't received the award yet, would be awarded at the Government Affairs Seminar February 20th, I won't be able to attend but Lindman and Wendtland will be attending. It's an award of excellence statewide from Wisconsin DNR.

Diny stated we'll add some break points once we bring it home.

Director's Report Placed on File.

3) Discussion and Update of the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Plant.

Boers began there were questions on operations of the new facility, concerns as far as maintenance and ongoing operational costs so there's a short memo. We're only a month and half into it so it's hard to normalize a lot of these costs but we looked at what we're expecting and if you have questions we could follow up.

Robinson stated we need to track our O&M costs, we have \$125 million trust fund that might be available for the O&M cost because they're significant, given the cost of the change out of the granular activated carbon. The Governor is going to be in the Village of Maine later today to look at their filtration system and announces of budget priority for PFAS, we need to stay in front of the policy makers and make sure that O&M is an eligible activity.

Force questioned the wide range on the regen cost from \$800k to \$1.4 million, what keeps it at the low range or what would put it at the high end?

Boers replied, dependent on how scarce carbon becomes, a lot of facilities are adding carbon now. Regeneration and reuse of the carbon could cut costs. The manufactures won't dispose of the carbon but would remove and regenerate it for lesser use or a remediation site. It wouldn't be a credit but be minus disposal included in the cost of the new carbon. DNR has not allowed anyone to use regenerated carbon in their drinking water facility. We could reduce cost if we could get a variance to allow the regenerated carbon to be used back into the facility but would be through work with DNR or a pilot program and we're currently using Calgon.

No Action Taken.

4) Discussion and Possible Action Approving Sole Source Request for the Purchase of Aluminum Sulfate Solution from Affinity Chemical, LLC.

Gehin motioned to approve the sole source request. Seconded by Force.

Motion carried 4-0.

5) Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Modification to Carry Over Unused 2024 Wastewater Capital Funds for Sewer Sliplining and H2S Repairs to 2025.

Robinson questioned if we were carrying over \$1,000,000 or \$1,025,000?

Lindman replied carrying over both the slip line and H2S repairs that would be the carryover of \$1,000,000 from 2024 into 2025 between the 2. In 2025, we have \$525,000 budgeted for Sliplining so we'll be doing a total project in 2025 of \$1,525,000.

Robinson motioned to approve carryover. Seconded by Gehin.

Motion carried 5-0.

Gehin questioned cause of hydrogen sulfide release, if it was due to replacement of pipe and if turbulence accelerated the release of the gases, there was a drop down from Kolbe and Kolbe that ran south cross country on the easement and intercepted at another street where drop manhole was?

Brooks stated a pilot was ran because of an odor complaint received around Imm Street, everything coming from the Industrial Drive lift station all the way east to the South on Elm Street coming into the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Magnesium hydroxide will diminish the H2S (Hydrogen Sulfide). We ran a pilot dosing Magnesium hydroxide at that Industrial Drive lift station, monitoring manholes and the H2S level dropped significantly with the addition of mag lime. It also eliminates the deterioration of the bricks in the concrete in the manholes. After Imm

street was lined, it took away that catalyst, concrete being the catalyst, where it would prevent odors. We'll need to locate the source it's coming from, metal plating industry, then hopefully get compensation from them down the road. This carries through the entire collection system from Industrial Drive through town to the Wastewater Plant, the residual is enough, we are dosing 75 gallons per day of this magnesium hydroxide that is not a lot to counter the H₂S so we found a reasonable way to counter the H₂S. We'd have to have some construction at the site or thought about dosing it upstream where Wausau Chemical is and there will be some capital involved to build the house for the bulk storage tank but its in its infancy stages right now.

Lindman stated that we've also replace some concrete pipe in some areas and have the additive put in the concrete mix, some of the projects on the interceptor sewer would be replacement of pipe and manholes. Before spending that money, we'll have to find out where the H₂S is coming from and set up mag hydroxide injection system somewhere to prevent that so any new infrastructure put in won't deteriorate.

Force questioned if the odor on Imm street was resolved.

Brooks replied winter months, the hydrogen sulfide doesn't prevail as much but it has not been taken care of. That is on the docket to get repaired this year with the Capital being carried over.

6) Adjourn.

Diny stated next meeting will be held March 4th, Gehin advised he will not be present, per commission, agree to move meeting from 11:00am to 11:30am start time to accommodate member of Parks Commission meeting on that same day.

Gehin motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Watson.

Motion carried 5-0.

Link to view meeting in its entirety: <https://tinyurl.com/wausaucitycouncil>

Gina Vang, Recording Secretary

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