



Minutes of August 3, 2021

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on July 30, 2021.

Members Present: President Rosenberg, Commissioners Robinson, Herbst, Gehin.

Others Present: Eric Lindman, Scott Boers, Valerie Swanborg, Stephen Opatik/Becher Hoppe, Lisa Zahrt/Clark Dietz, Toni Vanderboom, Anne Jacobson, Dave Schneider/WPS. Via Webex- MaryAnne Groat, Jeff Klarer/WEC.

1) Approve Minutes of July 6, 2021 Meeting.

Herbst moved to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Robinson. Motion to approve the minutes carried 4-0.

2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Lindman began speaking to the Asset Management Software, this was in the budget for this year. He explained we will be reaching out to some asset management companies and eventually prepare an RFP for that work once we narrow down what our goals are. We will update the commission as we move forward.

Lindman also advised we will be preparing an RFP for a consultant to assist in the Lead Service Line Replacements which the DNR is going to require. An update will be provided to the commission as we move forward.

Discussion took place about the current LSL Replacement grant funding. The percentage of property owners taking advantage of this funding is very low and discussion took place on how to increase participation.

Robinson asked about the water main that was hit and if we should charge a premium for situations like this for everyone's time. Lindman said we can certainly look into that with Legal.

Director's Report placed on file.

3) Discussion and Possible Action on a Solar Agreement with WPS.

Lindman went over the pricing from the Nature Wise program per the attachment in the packet. Robinson advised he does not think he has enough information to vote on this at this time. He would like to see a pro forma. We need that information to make a decision.

Dave Scheider/WPS thinks it is prudent and critical that they sit down with Clark Dietz and make sure that they understand the assumptions that were made. They can then come back for further discussion.

No action taken.

4) Discussion and Possible Action on Recruitment and Retention for Utility Employees.

Lindman went over staffing concerns related to upcoming retirements which may cause some succession issues and maintaining compliance with regulations in Wastewater and Water. Retention should be the focus and succession planning for retirements and being proactive so there is a smooth transition. The best way to work through that is to have options through a consultant to walk us through those, look at other utilities and our structure. This would be separate from the wage study the city does.

Vanderboom spoke to retention, the previous wage study and the city's wage scale. Concerns were brought up about establishing a different structure for the utility vs the rest of the city.

Staff to discuss options and come back with recommendations at the next water commission meeting.

No action taken.

5) Discussion and Possible Action on a Biosolids Sampling Plan for PFAS.

Lindman stated that being ahead of guidelines, limits and regulations can cause some issues. Usually when regulations come in there is some cost share and support. If we make changes before the regulations, those costs would be made on our own. Is this a route we'd still like to pursue or should we have the DNR come in for discussion?

Consensus was to schedule further discussion with staff, the DNR and a member of the commission if they choose to take part.

No action taken.

6) Adjourn.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting is adjourned.

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

Michelle Weasler, Recording Secretary

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