



Minutes of August 6, 2024

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 11:01 a.m. in City Hall on Tuesday, August 6, 2024. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on August 2, 2024.

Members Present: President Diny, Commissioners Robinson, Watson, 11:03am Gehin Via WebEx: Force
Others Present: Scott Boers, Eric Lindman, Ben Brooks, Tegan Troutner, MaryAnne Groat

1) Approve Minutes of June 25, 2024 Meetings.

Watson motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Robinson.
Motion Carried 4-0.

2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Robinson questioned schedule for meter depreciation replacement every 10 years but why its depreciated for Sewer Utility over a 20-year period if it's got a 10-year life?

Lindman replied the new meters have a 20-year life, until we get them all replaced, we are working with two different replacement timeframes. He highlighted 2 meetings coming up- Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled August 19th at 6:45pm to discuss the Lead Service Line Replacement Ordinance where no decision would be made, it would be discussion and informational session only and Horsely Witten would be there to provide a presentation to the Committee of the Whole and answer questions. The next item would be a joint Water Commission and Finance scheduled for August 14th at 5:00pm that included a presentation by Ehlers to discuss Utility Finances and Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT). The other items are operational, staffing updates and utility finances if anyone had any questions.

Director's Report Placed on File.

3) CIP's (Community Infrastructure Partners) Construction Update for 2024 LSL and 2025 Schedule.

Lindman updated that Eric Jones from CIP was going to try to make this meeting but Lindman would provide an update to best he could. We had about 150 service lines in the 5 Star contract and added another 57 lines. Last week, there were about 60 something services replaced. On average about 5 a day looking to increase 8-10 a day, there's another crew coming on. We continue with inventory in the census tracks we are working in, so not only the right of entries for our proposed 550 but also for next year replacements and lead line verifications. Our Department of Natural Resources (DNR) inventory list is due this fall, GIS is working on this as we move forward with our services . We are putting a dashboard together through GIS that would be live for the public with a basic GIS interactive map where someone could punch in their address and be able to determine what the material is for their water service line material. The map would indicate whether lead, not lead or unknown. If it's unknown, it gives you access to schedule someone to come out and verify or you could self-identify by taking pictures and uploading them to the website. More information could be found under lead information or equiflow tab under waterworks on our city website.

Gehin questioned if the lead ratio were coming in higher or less than expected for the lead

service line inventory? Lindman replied they were coming in less than what was anticipated.

Force questioned what the estimated cost was per lead service line replacement?

Lindman replied we had bids through 2026 for full lead service line from the main to the home of \$6,000 and just private side would be \$4,800 so we got good bids.

Diny questioned with bringing in another crew, how late into the season we would work knowing weather plays a big part.

Lindman replied we'd like to see it completed end of October weatherwise but we have worked into November with excavation work, it's the restoration that becomes a problem but goal is to be done by end of October.

Robinson questioned 2025 proposal, schedule, when we need to act and if we had any funds we could carry over from this year towards next year's projects.

Lindman replied we made an application to the DNR and are expecting their funding list to be out in September, as of right now, they are just gathering inventory for 2025, identifying lead service lines but the census tracks are similar to what we had this year. DNR has not awarded any 2024 lead service line funding statewide yet so everybody is getting frustrated because every municipality are beginning to incur costs and some even delayed construction. Those frustrations were already expressed to the DNR but normally for the safe drinking water act, they would require closing deadlines but are already telling us they would be giving extensions because of the process. We might see the funding list for next year before we close on loans for this year. Hopefully, next year goes smoother but there's some frustration there on the DNR side.

No Action Needed.

4) Discussion and Possible Action on Water Tower Lease Agreement with Sprint Spectrum, L.P. (T-Mobile).

Boers began that T-Mobile is buying out Sprint and taking over Sprint's equipment on our tower on the West side of town, this is their keep agreement that I worked with Jacobson and T-Mobile on this for the last year and a half. Jacobson is good with the legal aspects of this and I'm good with the operational aspects so we both suggest moving forward with this.

Lindman reiterated that our elevated tower's space is leased to mobile companies that we get annual revenue for. The challenge is that the more equipment they put up there it has a potential to compromise the structure of those towers so we have to make sure if or when they want to add/replace things, an analysis is required. As Boers mentioned these discussions take a long time so it's good to have one complete and in place. AT&T was done in 2020 so they're going to be doing their second rendition or update soon.

Gehin stated the equipment if T-Mobile was replacing Sprint it should be ok with what is already there because in the past they already beefed it up but the structure should be good with wind shear and everything else.

Boers replied T-Mobile will be expanding their equipment so some will be larger replacements so wind shear will be greater but AT&T will be reducing the size of their equipment so even though our tower should be close to maxed out, we shouldn't need any further structural updates.

Gehin questioned total revenue?

Boers replied \$36,000 a year and AT&T is currently at \$38,000 a year but would be moving next year to \$42,000.

Gehin moved to approve the water tower lease agreement with Sprint Spectrum, LP (T-Mobile). Seconded by Watson.

Motion Carried 5-0.

5) Discussion on Possible Improvements to the Consumer Confidence Report for Improved

Communication with our Customers.

Force began he brought this item up because there were differences between online and newsletter version and felt there's an opportunity for us to have an explanation of what we're doing with our drinking water systems rather than just showing numbers. For example, in Madison's report, there's half a page ahead of the template that goes into a straightforward discussion of the water system, where it comes from, how it's treated, how it's distributed. We are trying to build confidence in our consumers that our water is of good quality. He spoke with neighbors and felt that summarizing it in non-technical language would be more useful to the average citizen. Maybe work with the water department and develop some kind of narrative introduction into this report to talk about what we are doing, how water is treated, rather than just several tables containing numbers. I would recommend having a task force come up with some recommendations we could look at to help people understand what's going on with the advances we've made with the new treatment plant, heightened removals of iron and pfas, we have a lot to talk about with staff and see if we could come up with a slightly different approach. He added he wanted a link on the newsletter for the online CCR from DNR's website.

Diny replied we could do something like that internally. Gehin stated this template needs to remain as is and it cannot be altered because it's straight from the DNR.

Robinson questioned if all the parameters were covered as its usefulness is very limited when you look at 2018 and 2020 lead copper UCMR (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule) and dealing with 5-year-old cases. Advised Force that Madison has individualized wells so their report would look different but our water goes through one centralized treatment facility but it would be good if staff could look at this in narrative. Many of the contaminants are expressed in scientific terms and the public has no idea what HAA5 parts per billion or HAA6Br are. Maybe we could share that with the State to look at updating the confidence report data.

Watson questioned if the numbers had to look like this or if there were a more efficient way to display the info graphic and if we could add a summary page that's easier to digest.

Boers replied as much as he'd like to take credit for putting it together, this was generated right through the DNR, we add the information and they run it out but the discrepancies between the one in the newsletter that is shorter to the one online is that we try to add some description on the online version since we don't get pinched for space as in the newsletter.

Gehin questioned that TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) seemed higher than previously. Are we around less than 10 parts per billion and still using chloramines for disinfection? We are well under the standard MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) so that's good.

Boers replied we are still using chloramines, these would've been at the old plant, I'd have to look back and see where we're at with the current levels.

Watson questioned where the 2023 CCR Report was located, only saw 2022. Lindman replied we will check that and make sure it's updated.

Diny replied its all about communicating so we'll have to find a way to improve that and we will be in touch.

No Action Needed.

6) Adjourn.

Diny stated next meeting is scheduled September 3rd at 11am. Watson motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Gehin.

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

Gina Vang, Recording Secretary

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