



## **Minutes of September 7, 2021**

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

Members Present: President Rosenberg, Commissioners Robinson, Herbst, Gehin, Force.  
Others Present: Eric Lindman, Scott Boers, Valerie Swanborg, Dave Erickson, Toni Vanderboom, Ryan Dwelly, Stephen Opatik/ Becher- Hoppe.

### **1) Approve Minutes of August 3, 2021 Meeting.**

Gehin moved to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Robinson.

Motion to approve the minutes carried 5-0.

### **2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.**

Lindman began with the Rain Barrel update with talk of possibly looking into it again for Spring of 2022.

Robinson questioned the participation rate for the Lead Service Line Replacements inquiring if it's a matter of education or if the Health Department needed to be involved.

Force questioned if a mandate would come into play regarding the replacement of Lead Service Lines.

Lindman replied the education is good, there is a communication plan in place and along with those we've discussed a mandatory ordinance and other utilities have different options put in place. No timeline, but on road to start down the path.

Force questioned if we would have to return the remaining of the \$320,000 or if we could utilize that for the upcoming year.

Lindman replied that Becky from DNR runs this program and we can request again next year, if any money is left, it will go back to the pot. The money was supposed to be available February but we just received the money now, the lateness of the funding and the short construction season made it hard.

Robinson brought to light, the need for a plan as far as setting the stage from our PIM that was held on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Force had concerns from Paul who is the head of the neighborhood in the area of the new Water Plant. He wanted a 3<sup>rd</sup> party expertise and named mid-west renewable energy group. He also questioned why so many trees needed to be taken down along Bugbee Avenue and if the solar array could be moved a little North of the fields.

Lindman replied, the PIM provided good feedback and we can review to gather more information for our next PIM. Our last PIM notice that went out allowed feedback and written comments prior to the PIM and will be doing that again when we hold the next PIM.

Director's Report placed on file.

**3) Discussion and Possible Action Preparing an RFP for Recruitment/Retention/Staffing Recommendations to Build and Support a Successful Utility Organization.**

Rosenberg states will be pulling this item and discussing in the near future and not today.  
No action taken.

**4) Discussion and Possible Action Approving a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the WDNR Principal Forgiven Financial Assistance Agreement for LSL Replacement.**

Lindman went over the resolution and review the revised amount based on what was being utilized from our previous request to the DNR of \$450,000 and reducing to \$320,000.

Motion to approve the amount of reduction to \$320,000 by Force, Seconded by Robinson.

Motion passes unanimously, motion carried 5-0.

**5) Discussion and Possible Action on the Policy for Payment of Overtime to Eligible Employees.**

Lindman went over the reasoning behind this as employees who are called in on an emergent situation who's worked a full 8 hour shift and came home and goes back to work from 10pm to 4 am, from 10pm to midnight would be the time and a half then once midnight struck, it went back to straight pay.

Vanderboom stated she only had time to do little research and found the policy changed back in 2013 after Act 10. There was OT after 8 hours that was bargained through a union contract. For non-exempt employees, it was considered OT after 40 hour week.

Gehin questioned if DPW was paid the same way.

Vanderboom states DPW was paid the same way. Call-in minimum pay was 2 hours, OT after 8 hours of work, if past midnight, it goes back to straight pay and does not want to further comment until she does more research.

Rosenberg states we will be expecting to have a discussion in the near future on this.

No action taken.

**6) Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing the Hiring of a Wastewater Superintendent to Overlap and Shadow the Current Superintendent for up to 6-Months Prior to Retirement.**

Lindman stated that we would like to have the new Wastewater Superintendent overlap and shadow the current Wastewater Superintendent for up to 6 months prior to Erickson's retirement.

Motion to approve the overlap and shadowing for the Wastewater Superintendent by Force. Seconded by Herbst. Motion carried 5-0. Passes unanimously.

**7) Adjourn.**

There being no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn by Herbst, seconded by Robinson. The meeting is adjourned.

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

Gina Vang, Recording Secretary

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