



Minutes of October 5, 2021

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on Tuesday, October 5th, 2021. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on October 1st, 2021.

Members Present: President Rosenberg, Commissioners Robinson, Herbst, Gehin, Force.
Others Present: Eric Lindman, Scott Boers, Valerie Swanborg, Dave Erickson, Ryan Dwelly, MaryAnne Groat, Nate Miller, Stephen Opatik/ Becher- Hoppe. Via Webex: Debra Ryan

1) Approve Minutes of September 7th, 2021 Meeting.

Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the September 7th, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Herbst.

Motion to approve the minutes carried 5-0.

2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Lindman asked if there were any questions on the specific items.

Robinson requested if we can be provided more detailed description at the next PIM (Public Information Meeting). Requesting if we can provide information that will be presented by a third party regarding solar and outlining the reason and what it is we are looking to do there.

Lindman replied there's a contact from Midstate Technical College who may be interested in providing a presentation regarding renewable energy. There's a lot of information we are gathering now so it was important that we got feedback from the neighborhood group, and are looking at different costs and size of the arrays with the comments we had.

Force questioned timing of next PIM as the neighborhood representative Paul might be able to have an input in this and could offer critiques.

Lindman replied looks like early November but before Thanksgiving and asked if the commission wanted to see presentation ahead of the next PIM meeting.

Force states he would be in favor of that.

Gehin questioned the switch over to Class A Biosolids as he thought those were going into landfills.

Lindman replied the dried biosolids will go to the landfill until the DNR determines the dried solids meet Class A. There will be an interim period of Class B, more than likely it would go into the landfill.

Force asked what the timeline would be for the approval to switch to Class A.

Erickson states there is no specific timeline for the switch but there are still some details to work out and meeting requirements so plan on the interim of taking it to the landfill.

Gehin questioned westside interceptor work, if it were full replacement or lining?

Dwelly replied looking at lining as a method, and revising specifications for the lining.

Working with Strand of specifications. Looking at S 11th Ave by Kolbe & Kolbe going east to 3rd Ave where there was a collapse over a year ago. There are other manholes and looking at another on Park and Imm, maybe do a liner as it's more resistant in long term than a full replacement.

Director's Report placed on file.

3) Discussion and Possible Action Awarding a Proposal for the Development of a Lead Service Line Replacement Program.

Lindman states an RFP was sent out to hire an engineering firm to assist us with developing a replacement program for DNR approval; as is required by the LCR revisions. Received two proposals and both were reviewed and rated by four members. All four reviewers recommend awarding to Clark Dietz.

Robinson questioned what the product would look like and if we will meet the expectations on the utility staff.

Lindman states we will meet the expectations but we need to get good estimates however we do this we will use staff time and resources and need a full written plan. Replacement plan is at least 15 years if not more, but ultimately the Commission would have to determine if this will be affordable or not on the city side.

Robinson likes Trupani's proposal better and does not feel the need to rely on others to develop ordinances. The Commission can do this and it would be cost savings to us and questioned if we can negotiate on terms.

Lindman states we could, but his take back from Trupani was that they had no experience putting a plan like this together, this would be their first one.

Gehin stated if material inventory documentation went to copper in the mid 1960's.

Boers replied Fall of 1969.

Gehin states it is safe to say any home built prior to that has lead service. He makes a suggestion if we can go to assessor's office with age of home and we would have a pretty good estimate.

Force asked Robinson if development/plan of the ordinance is being suggested to be done by Commission because some items are beyond our scope.

Lindman replies the challenge for us would be preparing the deliverable from the administrative standpoint and timelines.

Force asked to go back and ask for a less robust plan and take on what we can do ourselves.

Robinson states Green Bay was successful in the replacements of their lead by engaging other allies such as the health department to develop advanced communication. This takes special skills and communication. He asks if we can have more information understanding the breakdown on this to bring it to the special meeting next week.

Lindman states we can hire a communication firm specifically to do that if this is what the commission wants. We can talk about details in the proposals in the next meeting and I can gather that information.

Rosenberg states from this discussion we would need more information before making a recommendation.

No action taken.

4) Discussion and Review of a DRAFT Lead Service Line Replacement Ordinance.

Lindman went over the draft of what the Ordinance would look like.

Miller stated he reviewed 6 different communities closest to what would be specific to Wausau.

Lindman states different communities had different structures, some paid for the

replacement, and some did not. The question for the Commission is how we want to put this together for funding and if we want to work through this as a whole or piece by piece. We can look at contracting out the reconstruction of the streets but most contractors are looking for a minimum of 400 replacements and up to consider the contracting.

Robinson states we can do this a piece at a time and not all at once.

Force questioned if we did this piece by piece if it would take months or drag on because we are on a timeline.

Lindman replied it could be one or two times but we can get this finalized and bring it back but the challenge is to start a communication plan. The communication plan is part of the LSL replacement plan so we need to get move forward with the Plan.

Miller stated most communities that got this done had an ordinance. We are not doing anything with the pipes inside the house, we are only touching one of the pipes and water supply is circulatory and maybe if it is a concern to see if they would consider changing them as well.

Rosenberg states this is an opportunity for education for the whole community.

Lindman appreciates the feedback.

No action taken.

5) Discussion and Possible Action Issuing an RFP to begin a Corrosion Control Study as Directed by the WDNR.

Lindman went over the letter from DNR stating Wausau needs to set up a Corrosion Control Treatment Study. Asking permission to move forward with setting up an RFP.

Boers states we need to bring recommendations to DNR within 18 months.

Robinson moved to approve issuing an RFP to begin a Corrosion Control Study. Seconded by Herbst.

Motion carried 5-0.

6) Discussion and Possible Action on the Sale of the Wastewater UV Disinfection Equipment to RMMSD (Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District).

Erickson stated the UV Disinfection Equipment was removed and was going to be salvaged but RMMSD offered \$10k for this equipment.

Force moved to accept the offer for the Wastewater's old UV Disinfection Equipment. Seconded by Herbst.

Motion carried 5-0.

7) Discussion and Possible Action on the Purchase of Two Quad-Axle Dump Trucks for Wastewater Plant.

Lindman states we are in the process of moving from Class B to Class A, but the roll off dumpsters are not the best options as they were cumbersome to remove and dump. An option would be the quad-axle dump trucks that would park there. The challenge we have is time because overnight we do not have anyone coming in to move those trucks. Other options are we can look at larger trailers but then we'd have to purchase trailers and a tractor to pull and then would possibly have to haul those out too. The operators feel that the quad axle trucks would be more beneficial. There were two used trucks available for purchase at about \$150k each right now. A brand new quad-axle truck would cost \$250k- \$275k each. If we purchase this, it may not be the end result or final result on how to handle the dry sludge but this will keep up with the transition and flow of the facility. We are not really budgeted for this as well.

Erickson stated we won't know the volume or pounds until we get the drier started up on what the volume would be. The staff feel the quad axle trucks would be more beneficial and

versatile. The trucks would be coming from North Carolina so there might be some transportation costs and plan to bring these back ourselves.

Robinson questioned if we could get estimates if it's better to purchase push trailers and if there was a timeline. It seemed that the push trailers would be cheaper.

Lindman stated they may not hold these trucks long, they offered to hold it longer but that obligated us to a certain amount so we didn't choose that option. We can ask the time frame. The drier is scheduled to go online in November.

Force questioned where our tractor was to which DPW now has. He questioned why we should purchase two trucks if we might not need them in the future.

Robinson moved to see if we can defer this for next week's meeting and to be provided more in depth detail for staff and to come up with a budget. Seconded by Herbst.

8) Discussion on Confirming the Date for a Special Commission Meeting to Discuss Recruitment/Retention; Thursday, October 14th 12:30-1:30 PM.

Lindman wanted confirmed the date/time for the Special Commission Meeting.

Motion carried 5-0.

9) Adjourn.

There being no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn by Robinson, seconded by Gehin.

The meeting is adjourned.

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

Gina Vang, Recording Secretary

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