



Minutes of November 10, 2020

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on November 10, 2020. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on November 6, 2020.

Members present: President Rosenberg, Commissioners Force, Robinson, Herbst, Gehin.

Others present: Eric Lindman, Dave Erickson, Scott Boers, Valerie Swanborg, Tonia Westphal/Clark Dietz.

1) Approve Minutes of October 6, 2020 Meeting.

Herbst moved to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Gehin.
Motion to approve the minutes carried 5-0.

2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Lindman advised that the construction updates for both of the plants are included in the packet.

Force asked about the hole behind the Marathon County Services building and when that will be filled. Lindman advised that it should have been filled last week. Gehin advised it's been filled and paved. Lindman explained that they moved all the fill over to the Kolbe sight when they excavated and when they brought it all back and compacted it they were 1,000 yards short, so there was an additional cost.

Gehin asked if they replaced more pipe than what was intended. Lindman said not that he's aware of.

Force asked about the railroad requirements. Erickson responded that Clark Dietz did a good job getting clearance from the railroad but then got held up on the easements. We almost have that taken care of at least with 2 of them but then the railroads decided that Union Pacific owned it rather than the railroad that approved it. Clark Dietz is submitting material to get that done. Force asked if that's just right away or if there is track there. Erickson explained that there is track there and then the right away extends on each side and the force main is located within that right away.

3) Discussion and Possible Action on Approving Award of the Recommended Solar Proposal.

Lindman advised we had 3 proposals. Some of the firms will be bidding the construction so one of the caveats in the proposal was that we wanted 3rd party inspections. If they provided the engineering services we wanted somebody different to do the construction so there was oversight. Out of the 3 proposals, Clark Dietz came out on top. Staff recommends moving ahead with Clark Dietz to begin the design and planning of the solar project.

Force noticed a considerable disparity in the cost. Lindman explained that in the proposal from IMEG, they had a different list in there about other fees to be billed. The APEX proposal didn't seem to be covering everything that we wanted them to cover. Gehin asked what the projected construction costs were. Westphal responded that they had looked at that a little but the proposal asked for an evaluation on building 3 different size facilities so it's difficult to predict what the cost would be. They looked up the costs of similar sizes of sites. As a caveat, they also used electric data from the existing

plant, not the new plant so this is going to be a really rough number. Something similar in size and recent construction data in the Midwest estimates the cost to be about \$1.75 million. Gehin asked what the estimated payback would be. Westphal explained that every utility is different and not all of those projects were associated with WPS.

Force asked if we are committed to this. Lindman advised the proposal is to move ahead with this, we just want to make sure that the solar that we're providing for the utility is appropriate, we want to look at the payback costs, is it better for us to only generate 50% of our load or 100%. We as a utility haven't gone through that process yet.

Motion by Herbst approving award of the recommended solar proposal to Clark Dietz. Seconded by Gehin.

Robinson asked why when scoring evaluation criteria, we give more weight to locality than the cost, why is that? Lindman advised typically on professional services we don't give a lot of weight to cost because we are more interested in the engineering firms ability to deliver than the actual cost. Robinson asked what goes into the location and experience particularly the difference between IMEG and Clark Dietz. Lindman advised that from his perspective on scoring, Clark Dietz had more experience in the upper Midwest than IMEG did and also on larger facilities. Robinson asked why there is a cost for surveying and soil boring, don't we have a lot of that information already. Lindman responded not in the location where we are proposing to put this.

Robinson commented that he would hope this would be brought back once the 3 options are developed. Lindman responded that we'll bring back the 3 different options along with some additional costs and payback information for the commission to review.

Motion carried 5-0.

4) Discussion on the Timeline for the Wauter Savvy Campaign.

Force advised that the team has met since this board approved the Water Savvy Program at the last meeting. We've looked at the schedule of media opportunities coming up and think the January city newsletter is a major part of the media campaign. We're proposing getting things prepared between now and that newsletter. It will be an ideal time and medium to launch this program and inform the city. In the meantime they will put together a more detailed media schedule using other means of communication such as the website, emails and public service announcements. Rain barrels is a separate project that Commissioner Robinson raised as a possibility. We would need to identify a provider of the barrels as well as the apparatus needed to hook up the barrel to the downspout, what would be charged for the barrels or are they free, instructions on how to install these barrels and developing a distribution protocol and where the barrels would be available. Unless they are instructed differently, they could take a look at this and develop a program before the summer season.

Robinson advised he would work with Force on this. Force noticed nobody was objecting to at least investigating a rain barrel program for the city of Wausau. Rosenberg responded she thinks it's a great idea.

5) Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Sole Source Purchases of ClarIon 415 from Chemtrade Chemicals for 2021.

Lindman advised this is a proprietary chemical that is used at the water plant. We typically go through this annually and is a fairly large expense. This is used for the removal of iron and manganese before the water enters the distribution system.

Motion by Gehin to approve the sole source purchase of ClarIon 415 for \$84,000.00 dependent on supply needs. Seconded by Force.

Force asked Boers if he's happy with this and if it works. Boers responded he is happy with it and it works very well in the facility where we are at now. Hopefully we will not need to add a coagulant in our next facility but we do need it for the next year or so.

Motion carried 5-0.

6) Discussion and Possible Action on the Purchase of a Full Size Half Ton Pickup.

Lindman advised that this was budgeted for in the 2020 budget for vehicles and the commission

typically gives final approval for the purchase once we get the quotes. Ewald Ford came in with the low quote of \$30,176.00. Force asked where they are located and if they would service the vehicle. Boers responded they are out of Hartford near Milwaukee and they would not service the vehicle. These are factory warranties so they can be serviced here. Force asked if we've purchased from them in the past. Boers confirmed we have, our last vehicle was purchased there.

Motion by Herbst to approve the purchase of a full size half ton pickup from Ewald Ford for \$30,176.00. Seconded by Gehin.

Herbst asked what this truck would be used for. Boers advised this is just a pickup to be used by the guys for tools and going to and from jobs. This is replacing a truck that was totaled by a former employee in spring.

Motion carried 5-0.

7) Discussion and Possible Action on the Purchase of a Long Wheelbase High Roof Van.

Lindman advised this is similar to agenda #6. Force asked if there is an advantage of putting the 2 together for a better price. Boers advised that each vehicle is spec'd separately so there really is no advantage to having a request for quotes by having them together. Force asked if we ever combine or work together with other utilities in the area on purchases of these vehicles. These are expensive vehicles and is wondering if it's economical to work with them. Boers advised we could definitely look into it but he does feel these are very favorable prices.

Robinson left the meeting at this time.

Motion by Gehin to approve the Purchase of a Long Wheelbase High Roof Van from Ewald Ford for \$44,711.00. Seconded by Force. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjourn.

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Herbst to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Gehin.