



Minutes of December 7, 2021

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

Members Present: President Rosenberg, Commissioners Robinson, Herbst, Gehin, Force.
Others Present: Eric Lindman, Scott Boers, Valerie Swanborg, Dave Erickson, Ben Brooks, Ryan Dwelly, Tonia Westphal/Clark- Dietz, Diane Thoun/ Clark- Dietz, Via WebEx: MaryAnne Groat

1) Approve Minutes of October 14th & November 2nd 2021 Meeting.

Herbst moved to approve the minutes of the October 14th & November 2nd meeting.

Seconded by Gehin.

Motion carried 5-0.

2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

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

Force questioned being one million under bid for the Wastewater plant.

Lindman confirmed currently we are one million under what the bid was.

Robinson questioned locates to see if those were all just fiber drops and for relocates, if there was a way, we could charge utilities for requesting and not completing their work.

Boers replied that the locates were all different job requests that included the fiber drops and by law, we must respond to locates but there is no rule stating relocates could be charged if they couldn't complete their work.

Gehin questioned the Corrosion Control Treatment Study characteristics but stated he found it in the packet.

Boers stated these are EPA's request along with their Lead/Copper rule.

Director's Report placed on file.

3) Discussion on the PIM (Public Information Meeting) Results for the Proposed Solar Project and Possible Action Moving Forward with the Design of a Solar Array and Landscaping Plan for the new Drinking Water Treatment Facility at 1010 Bugbee Ave.

Lindman stated the summary of concerns brought from the Public Information Meetings held at NTC (Northern Technical College) along with the minutes and the neighboring community comments are in the packet.

Robinson stated he did not feel comfortable with moving forward with the solar array after hearing the concerns of the neighboring community. He stated there is talk about a 30% credit for entities from the 1.75 trillion federal better bill proposal currently being discussed and that there could be funds for solar. His other thought of not moving forward was because we have yet to decide on the size, and the review of the location North via geotechnical investigation.

Force agreed with Robinson's statements.

Lindman stated we got good feedback from the neighbors but we are looking to move forward with a design so we can size the array and start the zoning process.

Robinson stated he would like to wait and see if the government passes that 30% credit because that could be a game changer. Requested utility to reevaluate the geotech to the North of the Water plant and review what's been proposed.

Lindman replied we can look at that. Lindman stated we held two Public Information Meetings (PIM's) that were very beneficial and informative for the Commission to consider when making decisions moving forward. In order to address the neighborhood comments we need to continue to move forward with work and concepts so we can continue discussions. We also want to be ready with a project to request funding as funding becomes available with ARPA or through the infrastructure bill.

Robinson motioned to have additional geotech studied, create a workgroup to engage in the planning, and reevaluate pro-forma on the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act 2021) funds. Force asked to have landscaping concepts and array layout as part of this to continue to get feedback from the neighborhood.

Rosenberg reiterated that the motion is to have additional geotechnical studies completed, create a workgroup (in which she would draft what criteria needed to be met to be in the workgroup), landscape draft and waiting on the reevaluation of the pro-forma on the ARPA funding.

Seconded by Herbst

Motion carried 5-0.

4) Discussion and Possible Action on a Sole Source Request to Purchase Pipe and Fittings Immediately for 2022 Projects due to Material Delivery Delays and Possible Material Price Increases.

Robinson questioned procurement policies and sole sourcing and why the commission would have to approve of this.

Lindman replied per practice, this commission still has to approve for sole source purchases.

Groat responded stating that sole sourcing is available and has a more aggressive timetable. Per policy, you can sole source equipment, plan project and have commission approve just like quotes. Finance can put in quotes but are not familiar with what the Water or Sewer plants need. Past years had RFP bid process but if there is a need, then sole sourcing is justified.

Lindman replied the reasoning for this is that there is a significant delay in the delivery of materials as well as potential price increases.

Gehin moved to accept sole source request to purchase pipe and fittings but requested staff obtain quotes from available suppliers before making the purchase and if we do not receive any quotes would move to go with core and main.

Seconded by Robinson.

Motion carried 5-0.

5) Discussion and Possible Action on Water Utility Vendor Agreement Contract with DOA (Wisconsin Department of Administration) for Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

Lindman requested approval of moving forward with Wausau becoming a vendor of the LIHWAP that assists low-income families with paying for their water bill.

Force questioned how this works and if there would be a lot of work on the admin side.

Swanborg stated application to become a vendor was submitted. This is a surplus funding

but not sure if it goes longer than a year. This program will pay us directly. We just need to track payments and accounts we've applied the funding too. This should be simple because it would be one payment per account. The household applies for the funding, this is secondary to applying for WHEAP (Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program) for low-income households. She believes this applies to homeowners because renters have a separate program that helps them but doesn't know for sure. It was clarified after the meeting that both homeowners and renters are eligible for this funding.

Robinson moved to approve and move forward with having Wausau Water participate in the LIHWAP.

Seconded by Gehin.

Motion carried 5-0.

6) Discussion and Possible Action on the Recommendation to Purchase a Tool Cat Type Utility Vehicle.

Robinson questioned procurement policy and reasoning to bring this to the commission as this is an operational decision and within the perimeters of the budget. Questioned if we need to take action.

Lindman replied, we still must have the commission approve. We can take it directly to Board of Public Works, but it was elected to bring it here.

Rosenberg stated maybe we can talk with the attorney's office to see if we should vote on items like this in the future or just place it on the director's report.

Gehin moved to approve the purchase of a tool cat type utility vehicle.

Seconded by Herbst.

Motion carried 5-0.

7) Discussion and Possible Action on the Recommendations for the Purchase of Hydrated Lime, Sodium Silicate and Sodium Hypochlorite for 2022.

Boers stated that we would take the lower bids but the Sodium Hypochlorite had fluctuations and prices have doubled. It's been going up, so we propose to lock it down by going with annual pricing.

Gehin motioned to approve the purchase of those chemicals.

Seconded by Herbst.

Motion carried 5-0.

8) Discussion and Possible Action on the Recommendation for the Purchase of a Forklift.

Force motioned to approve the purchase of the forklift as recommended by staff for the Octane Forklift.

Seconded by Herbst.

Motion carried 5-0.

9) Discussion and Clarification for Private Side Lead Service Line Replacement Funding.

Boers wanted to clarify that Private Side Lead Service Line Replacement Funding can be utilized for those who are replacing sewer lines at their own cost when they dig in and see that they have a lead service water line reiterating the fact that only the water service line would be reimbursed.

Gehin moved to accept staff recommendation.

Seconded by Robinson.

Motion carried 5-0.

10) Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution Designating Director of Public Works & Utilities or Water Superintendent to Apply for Private LSL Replacement Funding.

Lindman presented that re-applying for the private Lead Service Line Replacement Funding for the fiscal year 2022 would be beneficial, requires a resolution of the City Council and is seeking approval to have authority for applying be delegated to the Director or Water Superintendent.

Robinson moved to approve the resolution designation and application for the private Lead Service Line Replacement Funding.

Seconded by Herbst.

Motion carried 5-0.

11) Discussion and Possible Action on the Proposals to Purchase the Existing Wastewater Standby Generator.

There being no proposal received, no action or discussion was required.

No action needed.

12) Discussion and Possible Action on an Amendment to the Clark Dietz Services Agreement to Complete Design & Bid Services for the Sanitary Sewer Interceptor at 48th Ave.

Robinson questioned why we have a lump sum of \$27,900 but not to exceed \$12,000 in material. When contracting with the state it had time and material, are we lump sum or not to exceed.

Lindman stated it is easier to administer with a firm budget number. Typically, with engineering services, payments and services provided can be broken down to understand what we are paying for on a monthly basis and wouldn't have to track time/material/cost for specific individuals from the firm. Time and materials is more difficult to track and you typically do not have a firm budget, the City typically uses lump sum contracts for professional services.

Robinson questioned if we are looking at \$300,000-\$400,000 project.

Westphal stated there is no cost out yet for this project but can do that as we pull this out this portion of the project but we could be close to the \$300,000 range.

Gehin questioned if this needed to be done first before the 48th Ave project.

Westphal stated it's not but the lead time for railroad is great CN & Union Pacific have jurisdiction over that area and this may take time. This sewer would need to be in before the one out on Stewart can be installed.

Thoune stated there is a 15-inch sewer. The flow from West side would be going into that and 72nd Ave and will discharge into that 15-inch sewer long term.

Gehin moved to amend Clark Dietz services agreement to complete design and bid services for the sanitary sewer interceptor at 48th Ave.

Seconded by Robinson.

Motion carried 5-0.

13) Adjourn.

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

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

Gina Vang, Recording Secretary

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