



Minutes of December 8, 2020

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in City Hall on December 8, 2020. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on December 3, 2020.

Members present: President Rosenberg, Commissioners Robinson, Herbst, Gehin/WebEx.

Others present: Eric Lindman, Dave Erickson, Tonia Westphal/Clark Dietz, Steve Opatik/Becher Hoppe.

1) Approve Minutes of November 10, 2020 Meeting.

Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Herbst. Motion to approve the minutes carried 4-0.

2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Gehin asked if there were any other details on the I & I study. Erickson advised they met with Strand. They are getting some additional information such as pumping times and estimated gallons at the lift stations so they can finalize their report.

Robinson had questions on the service line insurance program through the National League of Cities, he would assume there is another Underwriter for that. Lindman responded yes and he believed it was Home Serve. Robinson asked if there were a lot of other communities that have done this and his concern is a rebate to the utility. Lindman advised this is a choice for homeowners. It's a service that the customers would have the option to elect into but there would be an agreement between the utility and the National League of Cities for offering the program. He doesn't have all of the details ironed out yet. There aren't a lot of municipalities that are doing this yet in Wisconsin. They will reach out to the ones that are and see how it's going. It's essentially an insurance program where the customer will pay so much a month and if there is a leak, repair or replacement that is required then they make the claim and it would be covered.

Robinson asked about the update of the sewer rate schedule. Is the attempt here to reference a process that will provide an attachment or note to the ordinance. How will we do that and also ensure due process and public participation. Lindman responded a couple of months ago we discussed implementing a policy manual. We're looking at a few different things right now for the policy manual and one of them is how sewer rates get implemented, looked at and raised. The issue right now is by statute, the commission has full authority to make adjustments to the sewer rates. How they're written is that the actual rates are in the ordinance but the council has full authority to amend the ordinance creating a conflict. So we'd like to take the rates out of the ordinance and have them on a fee schedule and the ordinance itself will just reference the fee schedule. This will eliminate the ordinance from having to be amended every time sewer rates change. Robinson asked if the council will have a role in that approval. The water rates are set through the PSC but the sewer rates are set through the local process. Lindman advised that's correct and final determination can be done by the Water Commission by statute. The council has delegated that authority to the commission through ordinance.

Gehin wanted to go back to the service line insurance program. Who collects payment for this and

does everyone need to take part in it. Lindman advised this is an elective program and the city will not handle the fees.

3) Request Approval of Chemical Quotes for Year 2021.

Lindman advised we typically go out every year and this is final approval to enter into a contract with these vendors for 2021. Low bids as follows: Graymont Western Lime for Hydrated Lime @ 175.44/ton. Hydrite for Sodium Hypochlorite for 0.82/gal. Milport for Sodium Silicate for 0.1298/lb. and Air Products for Liquid Carbon Dioxide for 0.0675/lb. or 165/ton.

Motion by Robinson to approve the lowest qualified proposals. Seconded by Herbst.

Motion carried 4-0.

4) Discussion and Possible Action on Acceptance of Proposal for Sewer Condition Assessment.

Lindman advised we went out for bids for these services for cleaning and televising one of our large interceptors. We had a collapsed interceptor a couple months ago on Imm St. and it was a fairly extensive repair. It showed some hydrogen sulfide issues because it is concrete pipe. It has been on our schedule to try to get these lines cleaned. We had 4 bids that came in for that work. Hydro Kleen is currently doing our slip lining project. The 2 lowest bids were Hydro Kleen and Northern Pipe. We are proposing to move ahead with Northern Pipe which is about \$500.00 more. This is based off performance with Hydro Kleen and the work they have with us right now.

Erickson advised that they're still finishing up that project and there's been some issues. They are more comfortable going with Northern Pipe at this time.

Motion by Robinson to approve Northern Pipe's proposal for \$69,858.50. Seconded by Herbst.

Gehin questioned whether this was a bid or a proposal. Lindman advised he could have misspoken, but this is for services, not construction.

Motion carried 4-0.

5) Discussion and Possible Action on Vergent Proposal for Micro-Turbine Factory Protection Plan Extension.

Erickson explained that they have 2 micro-turbines that generate electricity from the methane that is generated from the digesters. They've been running consistently since purchasing them 9-10 years ago but the service contract is running out. We have the option of extending that and he recommends we do extend it. This doesn't run out until January 2021 so we do have the option of reconsidering this at that time. He has requested some additional information. They're going to be onsite next week to take a look at what we have and go over those proposals. This was just to make them aware that this is being looked at and we are evaluating the options. He would recommend bringing this back again in January.

Robinson asked if we have any type of maintenance or replacement schedules for the wastewater plant and water treatment plant. Erickson responded yes and no. The old system was based on an XP computer and that has essentially collapsed. For the time being, they are tracking key maintenance issues on an excel spreadsheet. As part of the new plant expansion, we will be looking at a system that would track that and be more extensive.

Adjourn.

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