

Regular Meeting of the Water Works and Lighting Commission  
Wednesday, March 8, 2023

**There were present:**

Commissioner Jay Bemke  
Commissioner John Bergin  
Commissioner John Harper  
Commissioner Rick Merdan  
Commissioner Jeff Penzkover

Also in attendance: Jem Brown, Roxanne Gronski, Jeff Kuhn, Josh Elliott, Adam Breunig, Shawn Reimer, Tyler Sneen, Todd Weiler, Matt Stormoen, and Sean Wall.

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman John Bergin called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

**2. Approval, additions or corrections to the minutes of the following meeting**

**2.1 Regular Commission Meeting held February 8, 2023**

There was a motion made by John Harper, seconded by Jay Bemke, and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting held on February 8, 2023, and to place them on file. There were no nay votes recorded.

**3. Action items**

**3.1 Request to hire summer help**

After discussion there was a motion made by John Harper, seconded by Rick Merdan, and carried to approve a request from Water Superintendent Adam Breunig to hire one limited term summer employee to work with the water department as a laborer, and a request from Office Manager Lynn Schroer to hire one limited term summer employee to assist in the office. There were no nay votes recorded.

**4.0 Department updates**

**4.1 Safety Committee Report**

The commissioners reviewed the February safety committee report and the

safety coordinator's monthly report. Line Superintendent Josh Elliott answered questions regarding the tree trimming that is done by our crews and the contracted tree trimming that is done by Davey Tree.

#### **4.2 Line Superintendent's Report**

This report was reviewed and discussed. Josh Elliott answered questions regarding the work that is being done to retire the 69kv line to the Foundry.

#### **4.3 Water Department Operations Report**

This report was reviewed and the February maintenance projects were discussed. Each winter WW&LC has a list of customers who are asked to run a small stream of water to help prevent frozen pipes, Water Superintendent Adam Breunig stated that letters are going out to notify these customers that they will no longer need to do so.

#### **4.4 Customer Support Supervisor's Report**

This report was reviewed and discussed. End of moratorium will change our accounts receivable. Jeff Kuhn stated that with the end of the moratorium electric disconnection for non-payment will begin on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a lengthy discussion on the Reliability article in the Currents & Waves newsletter. John Bergin stated that our 2022 reliability statistics are once again amazing.

#### **4.5 Director of Finance's Report**

This report was reviewed and there was a lengthy discussion regarding the financial statements. Jeff Kuhn answered questions regarding the meeting that he, Shawn Reimer and Lynn Schroer had with the Town of Grand Rapids representatives to discuss creating an ordinance allowing the utility to place past due electric balance for the Town of Grand Rapids residents on the tax roll.

#### **4.6 Information System's Administrator's Report**

This report was reviewed and Matt Stormoen answered questions regarding February projects. Matt stated that we have received all of the hardware for the server hardware replacement project and have been informed that the remaining parts for the network hardware replacement project are scheduled to be delivered in June.

#### **4.7 Conservation Manager's Report**

This report was reviewed and discussed. Shawn Reimer answered questions regarding the key account engagement meeting with Focus on Energy (FOE). We discussed the Commercial and Industrial customers visited in 2022 and the benefits/savings their organization received from our on-site visits. During the meeting I elaborated the importance of continuing these energy assessments for our customers. We were all in agreement to continue these on-site visits in 2023. In 2022 WW&LC had approximately 16 customers who received approximately \$47,000 in FOE incentives.

#### **4.8 Electrical Engineer's Report**

This report was reviewed and discussed. Tyler Sneed answered questions regarding the fault current calculation requests that he receives. These are typically requested by electrical contractors working on local businesses so they know the arc flash rating of the equipment they are working on. Todd Weiler stated that as part of the RP3 Award WW&LC does a complete arc flash study of our entire system.

#### **4.9 Director of Engineering & Electric Operations**

This report was reviewed and discussed. Todd Weiler answered questions regarding the differences between load tap changers and regulators and what the advantages and disadvantages of each are.

#### **4.10 General Manager's Report**

This report was reviewed and discussed. Jem Brown answered questions regarding a call to the PSC regarding the potential process of removing all transmission charges from the utilities buyback rate per kWh from solar customers. Jem also stated that Manitowoc Public Utilities (MPU) has filed with FERC to get System Support Resource payments from all affected parties to make MPU cost free for running the MPU's boiler 9. GLU has intervened in the proceeding along with WPPI and WPS. This proceeding will take a while for FERC to rule on.

### **5. Review of accounts payables**

A listing of all invoices and checks covering February was provided to the commission for review.

### **6. Adjourn**

There was a motion made by Rick Merdan, seconded by Jeff Penzkover,

and carried to adjourn at 2:34 PM. There were no nay votes recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Merdan, Secretary