

Regular Meeting of the Water Works and Lighting Commission
Wednesday, March 9, 2022

There were present:

Commissioner John Bergin
Commissioner Rick Merdan
Commissioner Tom Nowak
Commissioner Jay Bemke

Also in attendance: Jem Brown, Roxanne Gronski, Todd Weiler, Jeff Kuhn, Josh Elliott, Dale Scheunemann, Matt Stormoen, Tyler Sneen, Shawn Reimer, Lynn Schroer and Sean Wall

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tom Nowak called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Commissioner John Harper was excused from today's meeting.

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

2.1 Regular Commission Meeting held February 9, 2022

There was a motion made by Rick Merdan, seconded by Jay Bemke, and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting held on February 9, 2022, 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 Bergin, seconded by Rick Merdan, and carried to approve a request from Water Superintendent Dale Scheunemann 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. No nay votes were recorded.

3.2 Simplified Water Rate Case

Director of Finance Jeff Kuhn stated that as part of the 2022 water operating budget, we anticipated requesting approval to file a simplified rate case with the Public Service Commission (PSC). The simplified water rate case will

raise monthly charges and volume charges by three percent across the board. This would equate to an additional \$1.13 per month for water service for a typical residential customer using six units of water per month. Based on the date the application will be filed with the PSC, the new rates would most likely be effective in May 2022.

There was a motion made by Rick Merdan, seconded by John Bergin, and carried to file a simplified water rate case with the Public Service Commission in the amount of three percent. No nay votes were recorded.

4.0 Department updates

4.1 Safety Committee Report

The commissioners reviewed the safety committee minutes and safety coordinator's monthly report. Sean Wall stated that the excavating and trenching program was reviewed and that training will most likely be taking place in April before the construction/trenching season starts.

4.2 Line Superintendent's Report

This report was reviewed and Josh Elliott answered questions regarding the February after hour call-ins.

4.3 Water Department Operations Report

This report was reviewed and February water projects were discussed. Dale Scheunemann answered questions regarding the water main breaks stating that it is not uncommon this time of year and is usually caused by the ground shifting due to freezing and thawing.

4.4 Customer Support Supervisor's Report

This report was reviewed and current water disconnections were discussed.

4.5 Director of Finance's Report

This report was reviewed and pole attachment projects and agreements were discussed.

4.6 Information System's Administrator's Report

This report was reviewed and Matt Stormoen answered questions regarding February projects.

4.7 Conservation Manager's Report

This report was reviewed and Shawn Reimer answered questions regarding on-site visits that were made to key accounts in February. Shawn also discussed Focus on Energy incentives available on residential solar installations under 20kW.

4.8 Electrical Engineer's Report

This report was reviewed and Tyler Sneen gave an update on the filter plant MCC project. Tyler stated that as soon as we can acquire non-silicone protective dielectric grease it will be put on the connections on the drive electronics to protect the copper from corroding.

4.9 Director of Engineering & Electric Operations

This report was reviewed and Todd Weiler stated he attended multiple meetings with US Cellular regarding their wishes to install equipment on several WW&LC locations to create 5G hot spots.

4.10 General Manager's Report

This report was reviewed and was discussed. Jem Brown answered questions regarding a meeting with Davey Tree Service. We are very pleased with their line clearance work and their customer service. Jem also stated that we were made aware of a 13% increase in their services for 2022.

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 John Bergin, and carried to adjourn at 1:45 PM. No nay votes were recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Merdan, Secretary