

Special Meeting of the Water Works and Lighting Commission
Friday, October 2, 2020

There were present:

Commissioner John Harper by audio conference
Commissioner Scott Kellogg
Commissioner Tom Nowak
Commissioner Rick Merdan by audio conference

Also present: Jem Brown, Jeff Kuhn, Josh Elliott, Dale Scheunemann, and Todd Weiler by audio conference

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Tom Nowak called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Commissioners John Bergin was excused from today's meeting.

2. Discuss 2020 budget

WW&LC is requesting budgetary additions for 2 items in the 2020 capital budget. The request would be for an additional \$175,000 for the Baker Substation additions and an additional \$150,000 for the pole replacement project.

The Baker Substation project which is a joint project between the American Transmission Company (ATC) and WW&LC was initially budgeted at \$750,000. Since the project is primarily driven by ATC who is investing \$11,897,322 in improvements of their equipment, the timetable of the project has been dictated by them. Work that was originally going to conclude in March of 2021 will now be complete by December of 2020. Unfortunately, This requires WW&LC to complete portions of the project by December instead of March of 2021. The 5 year capital budget plan initially had \$400,000 in 2021 to finish the Baker Substation Project, allocating the \$175,000 this year, allows it to be removed from the 2021 budget.

Also, this year the line crew was allocated \$500,000 to replace old utility poles. As of this year 150 poles have been replaced but the majority of the funds allocated have been used up. Without the allocation of additional funds the majority of the remaining 3 months will be spent tree trimming. Todd Weiler and Josh Elliott are requesting an additional \$150,000 which would allow the crews to equally split their time between tree trimming and pole replacement over the next 3 months.

There was a motion made by Scott Kellogg, seconded by John Harper, and carried to adjust the 2020 capital budget by \$175,000 for completion of the Baker Substation project and \$150,000 for pole replacement. No nay votes were recorded.

3. Discuss bottled water program

Our bottled water program which began in early 2006 has grown and our costs have increased significantly. In 2019 the cost to produce a case increased to \$10.99 per case. In comparison to our cost of \$10.99 per case you can locally purchase bottled water ranging from \$2.00 per case to \$2.50 a case.

Bottled water has always been an ecological concern with an estimated 70.9% ending up in a landfill. It is estimated that due to the PET used in plastic water bottles that it could take upwards of 450 years for them to decompose.

Water Superintendent Dale Scheunemann stated that based on the cost of this program and the environmental impact we would like to eliminate this program and allocate these funds to be donated to worthwhile charities in our local community.

After discussion and based upon the cost of this program and environmental impact, there was a motion made by Rick Merdan, seconded by John Harper, and carried to discontinue the bottled water program and to develop guidelines for donations to community charities. No nay votes were recorded.

4. Consideration of adjournment into closed session under Section 19.85(1)(f) of the Wisconsin Statutes, which reads: "Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations." – Accounts written off.

Upon unanimous roll call vote, the committee voted to go into closed session to discuss accounts written off.

5. Return to open session

There was a motion made by Rick Merdan, seconded by Scott Kellogg, and carried to return to open session. No nay votes were recorded.

6. Possible action taken on items discussed in closed session

After discussion there was a motion made by Rick Merdan, seconded by Scott Kellogg, and carried to write off \$99,887.55 from 353 electric accounts and to start further collection efforts. No nay votes were recorded.

7. Adjourn

There was a motion made by Scott Kellogg, seconded by John Harper, and carried to adjourn at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, Rick Merdan