

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2020

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on January 27, 2020 at 4:28 p.m. in the conference room at 119 North Water Street. Commissioners in attendance were Jay Eddy, Don Mathews, and Jeff Amo. Pete Olson was excused. Also present were General Manager Casey Engebretson, Office Manager Julie Babcock, and Dakotah Bork (Banner Journal).

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the minutes from the December 30, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Aye: Lund, Amo, Mathews, and Eddy
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the accounts payable vouchers; Accounts Payable (CK #36205 - #36267 and #36269 - 36273; HC #100360 - #100368) – Totaling \$1,304,923.03.

Aye: Lund, Amo, Mathews, and Eddy
Motion Carried.

Julie Babcock reviewed the December 2019 arrearages.

Casey Engebretson reported that the Water Department is working with the WDNR on selecting new lead and copper sampling sites in conjunction with the changing regulations.

Casey Engebretson reported that the payment to the participating counties for the WWTP Multi-Discharger Variance will be due at the end of February. It is anticipated that the payment amount will increase from last year due to the need to pay for phosphorus discharges for a full 12 months.

Casey Engebretson reported that the electric line crew is busy with tree trimming. Kevin LaValley and Jon Wussow are working to determine the meters and materials needed to complete the remaining electric meter change-outs. Approximately 85 meters remain to be replaced.

Casey Engebretson presented the updated design and estimate for the new utility operations center. The current estimate was approximately \$150,000 lower than the previous estimate, due to cost-saving changes and a lower contingency percentage. Casey also mentioned a number of other cost-savings measures that have been incorporated into the design that are not reflected on the current estimate.

Casey Engebretson reported on the preliminary electric rate increase projections prepared by WPPI. The electric rate increase would take effect in January 2021. The last electric rate increase was in 2016. Casey also stated that he contacted the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) and discussed the possibility of splitting a rate increase into two stages. The PSCW denied that request on the basis that the amount of the increase was not substantial enough to warrant a two-stage increase.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Amo to authorize filing an electric rate case application with the Public Service Commission.

Aye: Lund, Amo, Mathews, and Eddy
Motion Carried.

Casey Engebretson presented two proposed changes to the employee handbook. The changes clarified language pertaining the use of sick leave and reimbursement amounts for prescription safety glasses.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the sick leave language as presented and approve reimbursement up to \$400.00 once every three (3) years for prescription safety glasses.

Aye: Lund, Amo, Mathews, and Eddy
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Amo to approve a donation to the National Fire Safety Council, Inc./BRF Fire Dept. in the amount of \$90.00, using the Commitment to Community funds.

Aye: Lund, Amo, Mathews, and Eddy
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to adjourn at 5:39 p.m..

Aye: Lund, Amo, Mathews, and Eddy
Motion carried.

Casey Engebretson, General Manager
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