

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 21, 2020

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on December 21, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101 South Second Street. Commissioners in attendance were Jay Eddy, Jeff Amo, Pete Olson, and Don Mathews. Also present was General Manager Casey Engebretson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2020 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the accounts payable vouchers; CK #36954 - #37018; HC #100459 - #100467) – Totaling \$971,821.68.

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

Casey Engebretson reviewed the November 2020 financial statements and arrears.

Casey Engebretson provided a report on the NEO rare earth chemical pilot at the WWTP. Phosphorus levels have been reduced, but not to the level NEO originally proposed. The WWTP will be running a two (2) week pilot using a similar rare earth chemical from Hawkins, the WWTP's current chemical supplier. Savings have been realized using the rare earth chemical with reduced sludge hauling costs and the pay-per-pound to the counties. Casey will report back to Commission next month.

Casey Engebretson explained that the sewer rates have not changed since 2013 and a sewer rate adjustment will be needed in 2021. Increased sewer revenue is needed for debt service coverage and to cover the inflationary operation and maintenance costs since the last rate case. A proposal for a sewer rate study was received from Baker Tilly for a not-to-exceed price of \$10,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Olson to authorize Baker Tilly to complete the sewer rate study at a cost not-to-exceed \$10,000.

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

Casey Engebretson reviewed the 2021 WPPI wholesale rates with the Commission. The wholesale rate will increase 0.1% for 2021, however, the utility's total power costs are projected to be slightly lower for 2021 due to anticipated lower customer usage and load factor.

Casey Engebretson provided a brief update on the operations center project. The electric bond closing was held on December 9 and the bond funds have been invested with Ehlers. The water and sewer bonds will close on December 21, with the bond funds also being invested with Ehlers. Construction is scheduled to begin March 1, 2021 and a groundbreaking ceremony will be held prior to the start of the project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to adjourn at 4:29 p.m.

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