

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 30, 2019

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on December 30, 2019 at 4:31 p.m. in the conference room at 119 North Water Street. Commissioners in attendance were Jay Eddy, Pete Olson, Don Mathews, and Jeff Amo. Also present were General Manager Casey Engebretson and Dakotah Bork (Banner Journal).

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2019 Regular Meeting and the November 13, 2019 Utility Operations Center Committee Meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the accounts payable vouchers; Accounts Payable (CK #36124 - #36181; HC #100348 - #100359) – Totaling \$956,672.85.

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

Casey Engebretson reviewed the November 2019 financial statements and arrearages.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the water rate case public hearing was held on December 3, 2019. No members of the public attended. The Public Service Commission signed the final order on December 13, 2019 and the new rates went into effect on December 26, 2019.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the WWTP has experienced some issues with the skimmer arm on the gravity thickener. Jon Wussow and CJ Fronk have been working with WWTP staff to troubleshoot the issue. It is believed that the problem is electrical in nature.

Casey Engebretson provided a report of the Hydro #3 runner chest replacement. The hydro operators and line crew were able to replace the entire runner chest in one day. This resulted in cost savings by eliminating the need to have personnel on-site all night to monitor and pump the penstock. Completing this work quickly also resulted in minimal downtime and allowed Hydro #3 do resume generating. Casey acknowledged the fine work of the staff.

Casey Engebretson discussed the need for an electric rate increase for the new utility operations center. Casey has been working with WPPI Energy rates staff to begin the rate case process. Casey presented the options of a single increase or a two-stage increase. The Commission directed Casey to work with WPPI to determine projected single and two-stage increases and provide a report at the January Commission meeting. Action on the rate case authorization was tabled.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that an application for Construction Authorization will need to be filed with the Public Service Commission for the new utility building. Casey has completed the majority of the application and is awaiting additional information from the architect.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to authorize Casey Engebretson to submit the Construction Authorization application to the Public Service Commission.

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

Casey Engebretson provided an update on the FEMA reimbursement for the dam project. Wisconsin Emergency Management completed their review and submitted a recommendation to FEMA on December 17, 2019. FEMA will complete a review and make a recommendation for reimbursement; however, a time frame is unknown at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to adjourn at 5:17 p.m..

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

Casey Engebretson, General Manager
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