

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2020

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on June 29, 2020 at 4:30 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 were General Manager Casey Engebretson, Office Manager Julie Babcock, and a representative from the Banner Journal.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the accounts payable vouchers; CK #36504 and #36526 - 36598; HC #100401 - #100412) – Totaling \$576,082.68.

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

Julie Babcock reviewed the May 2020 financial statements and arrearages. Julie provided a ten-year arrears comparison and noted that arrears over 30 days have had a significant increase in 2020, however, the number of accounts past due have decreased. Julie attributed this to Cherie Dugan's proactive approach to customer outreach.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that water meter installations have begun. Staff is reaching out to customers to schedule meter change-outs and will be wearing masks when entering customer's residences.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the water department recently had their WDNR Sanitary Survey. Casey will work with Gene Larson and Jeff Bauer to provide a written response to the WDNR. Overall, the survey went well. Gene and Jeff continue to do a nice job operating the water department.

The Commission reviewed the 2019 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report. Rick Weikel and Billy Benz were recognized for the fine job they are doing operating the WWTP.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Amo to approve Compliance Maintenance Resolution 2020-1.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to nominate Commission officers as follows: John Lund, President; Donald Mathews, Vice President; and Peter Olson, Secretary.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the purchase of an advertising sign in the Milt Lunda Arena. Initial cost is \$350.00 and \$250.00 annually thereafter. Customer Service and Branding funds will be used to purchase the sign.

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

Casey Engebretson explained the Line Voltage Smart Thermostat (LVST) Pilot Project. This project is designed to target residential customers with electric resistance heat for installation of a LVST and compile data to verify

potential savings. The program would require the customer to contribute \$25.00 for each LVST ordered with the Utility contributing \$50.00 for each LVST ordered, capped at \$4,000.00. The remaining costs would be covered through a DEED grant obtained by WPPI Energy through the APPA. Utility costs will be covered using Customer Service and Branding funds.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that Tony Tondola has been appointed to the Line Foreman position effective August 2, 2020. Tony will be replacing Cal Thompson. Cal is retiring after serving BRFMU for more than 30 years. Cal's last day will be August 1, 2020

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin has issued an Order to begin rolling back provisions of a previous Order prohibiting utility disconnects. Specific rollback dates in the Order were discussed.

The next meeting will be Monday July 27, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to adjourn at 5:13 p.m.

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

Casey Engebretson, General Manager
comm.mtg.minutes.6.29.2020