

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2020

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on July 27, 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, Electric Superintendent Kevin LaValley, Line Foreman Cal Thompson, and a representative from the Banner Journal.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the amended agenda.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes from the June 29, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Amo to approve the accounts payable vouchers; CK #36599 - #36661; HC #100414 - #100422) – Totaling \$648,862.38.

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

The Commission recognized Cal Thompson's upcoming retirement and thanked him for over 30 years of service with the utility. Cal expressed his appreciation to the Commission.

Sean Lentz, Ehlers financial advisor, presented the Utility Operations Center finance plan to the Commission.

Julie Babcock reviewed the June 2020 financial statements and arrearages.

The Commission reviewed the Utility's response to the 2020 DNR Sanitary Survey inspection.

Casey Engebretson presented information about a rare earth chemical available from NEO Water Treatment for chemical phosphorus removal at the WWTP. The rare earth chemical has proven to reduce effluent phosphorus levels to 0.1 mg/L in other municipalities. The use of this chemical may eliminate the cost of adding ferric chloride and sodium hydroxide; reduce sludge production and hauling costs; and reduce or eliminate the payment to the counties as part of the Multi Discharger Variance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve proceeding with the 120-day trial at a cost of approximately \$15,000.

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

Kevin LaValley discussed the transformer bank replacement in the alley behind the Jackson County Bank.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the Public Service Commission extended the prohibition of residential utility disconnects until September 1, 2020.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that Roger Castle proposed installing a road into the sand stockpile for the material cost of \$4,000. Mr. Castle stated that he was willing to receive the equivalent value in sand rather than charging the Utility for installing the road.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Olson to authorize Casey Engebretson to enter into an agreement with Roger Castle to construct the road in exchange for the equivalent value in sand.

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

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that he received an email from FEMA regarding the need for additional justification for costs associated with the dam repair project. Casey is working with Boardman Clark and Mead & Hunt to formulate a response.

The next meeting will be Monday August 31, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

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

Casey Engebretson, General Manager
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