

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2022

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on October 24, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. in the Utility Conference Room at 349 South McKinley Street. Commissioners in attendance were Jay Eddy, Pete Olson, and Don Mathews. Commissioner Jeff Amo was excused. Also present were General Manager Casey Engebretson, Electric Supt. Kevin LaValley, Office Manager Julie Babcock, and Garrett Aleckson (Banner Journal).

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2022 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the accounts payable vouchers; VC #40648; CK #40676 - #40743; EP #100663 - #100673 – Totaling \$727,662.18.

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

Julie Babcock reviewed the September 2022 financials and arrearages.

Casey Engebretson provided an update on the water main extension project. The Contractor have tied the water mains at Depot St. and will continue installing water main down Hwy A, along the west side of Hwy 12/27, and then east under Hwy 12/27 and connecting to existing new construction water main on the east side of Hwy 12/27. The Contractor plans to complete the water main replacement on Washington St. next spring.

Casey Engebretson provided an update on the WPDES Permit renewal. The phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance has been tentatively approved. The draft WPDES permit is completed and the next step is a public hearing. The new permit will be effective on January 1, 2023 with a term of five (5) years.

Casey Engebretson presented the Commission with the Power Cost Adjustment (PCAC) for September. The PCAC has decreased from previous months, but remains higher than average, primarily due to high market energy prices.

Kevin LaValley informed the Commission that the testing at the Lincoln Substation is complete. The power fuses will be replaced and there was an issue found with the tap changer.

Casey Engebretson presented the timeline for recruitment of a WWTP Operator and requested the Commission's authorization to begin the recruitment process. The need to hire an operator is due to the impending retirement of Rick Weikel.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to authorize the recruitment and hire of a WWTP Operator.

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

Casey Engebretson introduced the Small Cell Ordinance and explained that municipalities have long had authority to regulate the local ROW. With the emergence of small cell technology, an FCC Order and the Wisconsin Small Cell Statute have provided some restrictions in a municipality's ability to regulate ROW users. The Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW) and Boardman Law Firm collaborated to create a model ordinance, which sought to impose reasonable ROW regulation within the municipal authority contained in the Small Cell statute. The model ordinance was revised to fit the needs of the City of Black River Falls. Casey asked the Commission to make a motion recommending that the City Council adopt the small cell wireless ordinance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Olson to recommend to the City Council the adoption of the small cell wireless ordinance.

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

Casey Engebretson provided an update on the recent MEUW Regional Dinner meeting held on October 18, 2022. Items discussed included safety and management opportunities provided by MEUW, legislative and regulatory topics, and advocacy efforts conducted by MEUW on behalf of its members.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Mathews at 4:57 p.m. to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of any public employee subject to the jurisdiction or authority of governing body; Exempt employee performance reviews and compensation

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Mathews at 5:34 p.m. to reconvene to open session.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve a 4% wage adjustment to all exempt employees, effective 1/1/2023.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday November 28, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

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