

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2022

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on December 19, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. in the Utility Conference Room at 349 South McKinley Street. Commissioners in attendance were Jeff Amo, Jay Eddy, Pete Olson, and Don Mathews. Also present were General Manager Casey Engebretson, Electric Supt. Kevin LaValley, and Garrett Aleckson (Banner Journal).

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2022 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Amo to approve the accounts payable vouchers; VC #40679; CK #40815 - #40899; EP #100682 - #100690 – Totaling \$1,140,276.05.

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

Commission President Lund clarified that the agenda stated October arrearages when, in fact, the November arrearages were included in the packet. The Commission reviewed the November 2022 arrearages.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the water main installation under Hwy. 12/27 was not completed and will be completed in 2023. This was in response to the question posed by Commissioner Amo at the November meeting.

Casey Engebretson provided an update on the WWTP Operator recruitment. Casey informed the Commission that an offer was extended to a candidate and that candidate has accepted. The pre-employment process will continue and the start date is January 16, 2023.

Casey Engebretson requested that the Commission approve the promotion of Billy Benz to WWTP Lead Operator. Casey said the handbook states that the Commission may promote qualified employees without the need to publish the job externally.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Amo to promote Billy Benz to Lead WWTP Operator, effective January 29, 2023.

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

Casey Engebretson provided an update on the WPDES Permit renewal. The new WPDES permit has been approved and finalized. The new permit will be effective on January 1, 2023 with a term of five (5) years. Casey informed the Commission that the Multi Discharger Variance (MDV) pay-per-pound will be \$58.85/lb. for the February 2023 payment. Casey also stated that the current MDV expires on February 6, 2027, so this permit includes a “reopener clause” to allow this permit to be reopened to address updates or remove MDV provision if the original MDV is altered or made unavailable.

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

Kevin LaValley provided an update on the work to restore outages due to the heavy snow fall. The line crew worked approximately 18 hours and were able to restore power to all but two (2) customers. The two (2) customers that were not restored required an electrician to reattach infrastructure to the houses before power could be restored. Kevin estimates that approximately 760 customers were out of power at some point. The Commission thanked the crew for their hard work and dedication and commended them on a job well done.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday January 30, 2023 at 4:30 pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Amo to adjourn the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

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