

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 27, 2021

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on December 27, 2021 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 Superintendent Kevin LaValley, and Garrett Aleckson (Banner Journal).

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Amo to approve the minutes from the November 29, 2021 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the accounts payable vouchers; CK #37840 - #37904 and CK #40001 - #40009; EP #100567 - #100575 – Totaling \$1,474,894.26.

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

The Commission reviewed the November 2021 financials.

The Commission reviewed the November 2021 arrears.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that Utility and City staff are meeting with David Schofield (SEH) to discuss possible funding sources for a future street and utility project likely slated for 2024. The area to be discussed encompasses Pierce and Fillmore Streets, including the perpendicular adjoining streets.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the Utility has entered into an Agreement with Strand Associates to complete the new 5-year WPDES permit for the WWTP. The Agreement is for an amount not-to-exceed \$10,000. The current permit expires at the end of 2022. The new permit will run from 2023-2027.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that chemical costs have been increasing at the WWTP. Casey reviewed the preliminary costs for chemicals, sludge hauling, and the Multi-Discharger Variance Payment to Counties and believes we will still be saving costs with the new rare earth chemical used for phosphorus removal. Casey will provide final 2021 costs at the January 2022 meeting.

Kevin LaValley provided an update on electric operations. Kevin informed the Commission that the recent storm caused a few outages and a broken pole, however, we weathered the storm quite well. Crews were out from approximately 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. restoring power. The Commission commended the crew on a job well done.

Casey Engebretson provided the Commission with a construction update for the operations center. The Commission reviewed the ninth payment application, change orders to-date, project costs-to-date, and the investment account withdrawals. Casey informed the Commission that some communications and monitoring items remain to be completed. Casey reviewed the new change orders received since the last

meeting. Approximately \$14,000 was spent to add handicap bush button operators at the front vestibule doors. A \$13,000 credit was added back into contingency for contractor credits. Casey stated that he anticipates the final pay application will be submitted in the next week and final project costs should be available at the next meeting.

Casey Engebretson outlined the remaining fund balances in the Value of Public Power Fund. These funds must be donated by the end of each calendar year and cannot be carried over. Casey recommended the following donations:

- Community Contributions
 - \$550 – American Legion Kitchen Remodel Fund
 - \$550 – Interfaith Caregivers Building Capital Fund
- Economic Development
 - \$250 – Black River Area Chamber of Commerce
- School Education and Outreach
 - \$910 – BRFSB Tech Ed Department
- Customer Services and Branding
 - \$590 – BRFSB Tech Ed Department
 - \$1,450 – Interfaith Caregivers Building Capital Fund
 - \$1,900 – Interfaith Caregivers Groceries-to-Go Program

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the Value of Public Power donations as recommended.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday January 31, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Amo to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

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