

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2023

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on February 20, 2023 at 4:31 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 Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2023 regular meeting and the February 3, 2023 Special Meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the accounts payable vouchers; CK #40961 - #41036; EP #100700 - #100706 – Totaling \$579,404.30.

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

The Commission reviewed the January 2023 arrearages.

Casey Engebretson stated that two (2) applications have been received so far for the Water Operator position. Applications are being accepted until March 2nd. Tentative start date is April 3, 2023.

At the January 2023 meeting, Casey Engebretson stated that the Sewer Department continuously operated at a loss, necessitating the need to consider a rate increase. Casey stated that the rate increase approved in 2021 was too conservative and did not generate sufficient revenue to cover expenses, nor provide a rate of return. The Commission requested additional rate options utilizing a slightly higher fixed monthly customer charge. Casey Engebretson presented three (3) sewer rate options to the Commission. The Commission discussed the sewer rate options and the estimated increase in revenue for each. One option, a \$9.00 fixed charge with a volume charge of \$5.63, would result in a monthly increase of \$7.20 for the average residential customer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Amo to establish the Sewer Rates as follows, effective May 1, 2023:

MONTHLY FIXED CUSTOMER CHARGE

METER SIZE	MONTHLY FIXED CHARGE
5/8" & 3/4"	\$9.00
1"	\$14.05
1 1/2"	\$19.70
2"	\$28.15
3"	\$47.80
4"	\$73.15

VOLUME CHARGE

\$5.63 per 100 cubic feet (\$.0563 per cubic foot)

TOWN OF BROCKWAY SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 1

QUARTERLY FIXED CHARGE

2023	2024	2025	2026
\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

VOLUME CHARGE (PER 1,000 GALLONS)

2023	2024	2025	2026
\$6.96	\$7.03	\$7.10	\$7.17

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

Casey Engebretson and Kevin LaValley provided an update to the forebay gate repair inspection conducted in 2021. Casey and Kevin met with Warren Hayden (Mead & Hunt), Eric Hogden (Underwater Inspectors, LLC), and Mike Gerdes (Gerdes Fabricating) to discuss repair options and formulate a Scope of Work. Initial discussions included performing the work “in the dry” with extensive concrete refurbishment. Warren provided a quick estimate of \$600,000 - \$1,000,000. The conversation shifted to an underwater repair with repairs to allow the proper functioning of the gates. This will likely result in a lower cost repair. Casey informed the Commission that a follow-up dive inspection will be performed with a focus on the agreed upon repairs, which will provide more detail for design and bid documents.

Kevin LaValley provided an update on the follow-up discussion with Dave Krause (electrical engineer) regarding the higher loads from new customers and the installation of EV chargers. Kevin stated the current 5 MVA power transformer can support up to 7 MVA, but will result in a shorter overall lifespan of the transformer. Kevin said that this made him more confident that we should be able to support the additional load in the short-term. Kevin also stated that Dave is working with another community currently performing a voltage conversion. Dave proposed the possibility of purchasing some items from that community, which would be 7200/12,470V. The Commission asked Kevin and Casey to follow-up and keep the Commission updated.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that he received a request from Street Supt. Darryl Nelson that the Utility contribute a percentage of the purchase price for a newer chipper truck. Casey stated that the line crew uses the chipper truck on occasion and recommended contributing 25% of the purchase price, which is \$12,112.50.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Olson to contribute \$12,112.50 toward the purchase of the chipper truck.

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

The Commission revisited the proposed Rest Pay provision previously discussed at the January meeting. Following a long discussion, the Commission decided to table the issue until the March meeting and asked Casey to provide some edits/corrections suggested by the Commission.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 27, 2023

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Olson to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

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