

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2023

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on March 27, 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 and Electric Supt. Kevin LaValley.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2023 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the accounts payable vouchers; VC #40577; CK #41037 - #41117; EP #100707 - #100713 – Totaling \$773,980.39.

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

The Commission reviewed the February 2023 arrearages.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the retail Power Cost Adjustment (PCAC) for February was \$0.0001/kWh. This PCAC is a significant decrease to the high PCACs experienced in 2022. Natural gas prices have decreased significantly, resulting in lower market energy prices. If natural gas and market energy prices remain stable, we are expecting negative PCACs in non-summer months moving forward, which will result in a savings for BRFMU retail customers.

Casey Engebretson stated the interview committee interviewed three (3) quality candidates for the Water Operator position. The committee chose to offer the position to David Gjerseth. David has experience working in a water utility and is fully certified in water. David has passed all pre-employment checks and will begin his employment with BRFMU on April 10, 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Olson to promote Jeff Bauer to Lead Water Operator, effective April 14, 2023.

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

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission of issues with deterioration of the pump assembly on Well #5. The pump assembly was pulled and will need to be replaced. Casey stated that after the quote is received, the Commission will likely need to convene a special meeting to approve the repairs.

The Commission reviewed the Phosphorus Multi Discharger Variance Payments to Counties over the last five (5) years. Payments have continued to decrease due to the phosphorus removal optimization efforts conducted by WWTP staff. The Commission commended WWTP staff on their continued effort to optimize phosphorus treatment.

Kevin LaValley provided an update to the forebay gate repair follow-up dive inspection. Kevin stated that the follow-up dives were completed and we are awaiting receipt of the video and report. This information will be forwarded on to the engineer for design purposes.

Kevin LaValley provided an update on the follow-up discussion with Dave Krause (electrical engineer) regarding the possible purchase of equipment from another utility. The utility is conducting a voltage conversion and will have equipment available in 2-3 years. This equipment would allow BRFMU to commence with a voltage conversion at a reduced cost to BRFMU. Kevin stated that Dave informed the utility of our interest and the outlook is positive. The Commission reiterated their interest in completing a Memorandum of Understanding with the utility. Casey will follow up with Dave and the utility.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to make a contribution to the Shooting Tigers in the amount of \$150.00.

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

The Commission revisited the proposed Rest Pay provision previously discussed at the January and February meetings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the rest pay handbook addition as presented, with option #1 regarding pay rate and Option #2 regarding the ability to use leave after the rest period.

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

Casey Engebretson provided an update on his attendance at the 2023 APPA Legislative Rally in Washington D.C. Casey was able to meet with Senators Johnson and Baldwin and Congressman Van Orden. Topics discussed included energy permitting reform, supply chain issues, and cybersecurity.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that a retirement party will be held on April 3rd for Gene Larson.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday April 24, 2023

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

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

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