

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2023

Utility Commission Vice President Don Mathews called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on April 24, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Utility Conference Room at 349 South McKinley Street. Commissioners in attendance were Jeff Amo, Jay Eddy, and Pete Olson. Commission President John Lund was excused. Also present were General Manager Casey Engebretson, Electric Supt. Kevin LaValley, Office Manager Julie Babcock, and Garrett Aleckson (Banner Journal).

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2023 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the accounts payable vouchers; VC #41021; CK #41118 - #41175; EP #100714 - #100723 – Totaling \$511,642.71.

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

Vice President Don Mathews informed the Commission that they can speak with Casey Engebretson if they had any questions regarding the customer service inquiry.

Julie Babcock reviewed the first quarter financials and March 2023 arrears with the Commission.

Casey Engebretson presented the Commission with a comparison of March 2023 wholesale Power Cost Adjustments (PCAC) to the PCACs experience in 2022. Market energy prices have decreased from pricing we experienced in much of 2022, providing savings to BRFMU and our customers.

Casey Engebretson presented a quote to the Commission for the repair of Well #5. The repairs will include replacement of the pump column, shaft, bowl assemblies, well shaft brushing, chemical circulation re-piping, and a new Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) and transducer. Section I of the quote included the removal of the equipment, which has already been completed, at a cost of \$19,452. The remaining work, designated as Section II through Section V, had a cost of \$56,739. Total project cost was quoted to be \$76,191.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement to proceed with the repairs, at a cost not-to-exceed \$76,191.

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

Kevin LaValley provided an update to the forebay gate repair follow-up dive inspection. Kevin stated that the follow-up dives were completed and the video and reports have been reviewed and forwarded on to the engineer to begin design and develop bid documents.

The Commission conducted a one-year review on the new work schedule. Casey Engebretson and Julie Babcock stated that the number of customers using automatic or online bill pay options continues to increase, resulting in fewer customers conducting business in-person. Also noted was the Utility has not experienced an increase in labor costs as a result of the new schedule and there has been no evidence of a change in staff's ability to adequately serve our customer's needs.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 22, 2023

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Amo to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

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