

## BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2022

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on May 23, 2022 at 4:29 p.m. in the Utility Conference Room at 349 South McKinley Street. Commissioners in attendance were Jeff Amo, Pete Olson, and Don Mathews. Commissioner Jay Eddy was excused. Also present were General Manager Casey Engebretson, Office Manager Julie Babcock, and Garrett Aleckson (Banner Journal).

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2022 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the accounts payable vouchers; VC #27589, 32218, 33210, 35500, 36769, and 37051; CK #40340 - #40401; EP #100617 - #100627 – Totaling \$818,031.37.

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

Julie Babcock reviewed the April 2022 financials and arrearages. Julie informed the Commission that expenses were higher due to April having three (3) payrolls.

Casey Engebretson presented the 2021 WWTP Compliance Maintenance Annual Report to the Commission. The WWTP received a GPA of 3.84. Casey commended Rick and Bill on their continued efficient operation of the WWTP.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Amo to approve Resolution 2022-1; WWTP Compliance Maintenance Annual Report.

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

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that Kevin LaValley is working with the City and our electrical engineer to plan and estimate costs for the extension into the new Swiderski apartments at the old Pines property.

Casey Engebretson reminded the Commission that the Open House/Customer Appreciation event is scheduled for this Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> from 11-2. Brats and light refreshments will be served. Also available will be tours, customer information, and free marketing giveaways.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the Brockway Sanitary District No. 1 approved entering into an interconnection agreement with BRFMU. The agreement would clarify cost allocations and the relationship between both entity's water systems. Casey stated that the initial need for this agreement was to satisfy the increased need for water by BRFMU, on an interim basis, to support a potential new high water customer. Unfortunately, the potential new customer has chosen to locate elsewhere, however, having this agreement in place for future needs would prove beneficial.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Olson to authorize the General Manager to coordinate with the City Attorney in the creation of a water interconnection agreement with the Brockway Sanitary District No. 1, execute the agreement upon completion, and cover the cost of creating the agreement and any associated costs incurred by the Brockway Sanitary District No. 1 resulting from the review and amendment to Brockway's rate tariff by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

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

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that Wholesale Power Costs have increased and are projected to remain higher throughout 2022. Some of the drivers for the increased costs are curtailment of Iowa wind farms, increased market energy prices, increased fuel costs at generating facilities, and scheduled maintenance outages at some of the WPPI-owned generating facilities. Casey stated that the increased costs get passed on to the customers through the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on their bill, similar to cost savings are passed on to the customers through the PCA when wholesale power costs are lower.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the City Attorney has a retention agreement with the City and BRFMU currently pays a lump sum of \$7500 to the City for legal services. The City Attorney has begun billing by the hour rather than a lump sum. Casey suggested entering into a separate retention agreement with the City Attorney, separate from the City, As this would likely result in a cost savings to the Utility. The Commission discussed and asked Casey to contact the City Attorney and bring a retention agreement to a future meeting for review and possible approval.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 27, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Olson to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

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