

## BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 27, 2022

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on June 27, 2022 at 4:29 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, Office Manager Julie Babcock, Electric Supt. 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 May 23, 2022 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the accounts payable vouchers; CK #40402 - #40469; EP #100628 - #100636 – Totaling \$606,702.68.

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

Julie Babcock reviewed the May 2022 financials and arrearages.

Casey Engebretson presented the 2022 WDNR Annual Water System Inspection results to the Commission. Some issues found include the need for new caustic chemical pumps, a missing label on a chemical day tank, the need for a new push bar mechanism on the fluoride room door, standards for the chlorine test meter, expiring private well permits, updates to system maps subsequent to street projects, and future reporting requirements for lead and copper. Gene and Jeff are working to address these items and continue to do a great job operating the water system.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the WWTP WPDES permit expires at the end of 2022. The application for the new 5-year permit was submitted to the WDNR earlier this year. WWTP staff were informed that the Phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance was tentatively approved and the permit application is next up for review.

The Commission discussed the retention agreement with the City Attorney for legal services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the retention agreement with the City Attorney.

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

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that WEA Trust will no longer be offering group health insurance coverage. The Utility's third party insurance broker, M3, provided approximately 80 new plan options and the cost increases were quite high. Casey has spoken with City Hall and the representatives from Central States (City's current carrier) insurance regarding the possibility of obtaining coverage. The Commission discussed insurance in great detail and asked Casey to gather more information for consideration at future meetings.

Casey Engebretson revisited the possibility of offering a health insurance opt-out incentive to employees who choose opt-out of obtaining health insurance coverage through the Utility. After a short discussion, Casey suggested that the Commission table this discussion until more information is available on potential health insurance options.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the Brockway Sanitary District Board tabled the water interconnection agreement at their June meeting to allow board members time to review the agreement more thoroughly. Commissioner Mathews, who is also a member of the Brockway board, stated that it is likely that the Brockway board will take it up at their July meeting.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that WPPI's Wholesale Power Costs have average about ten-percent above budget and are projected to remain above budget for the remainder of the year. Typically, retail rate impacts are approximately 60-80% of the impact to wholesale costs, resulting in a possible retail rate impact to customer of about 6-8%.

Casey Engebretson addressed the concern of the Midcontinent Independent System Operators (MISO) capacity shortage and the potential for rolling blackouts that has been in the news lately. Casey informed the Commission that the experts at WPPI feel that although there is some risk, they feel confident that the risk is minimal. WPPI works closely with MISO and other power entities and have protocols in place to mitigate potential damage to the electric grid during times of high electric demand. BRFMU also has an Emergency Action Plan which contains steps to shed electric load at the local level, should there be a public appeal to reduce energy usage.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday July 25, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

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