

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 29, 2022

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on August 29, 2022 at 4:28 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, Office Manager Julie Babcock, and Garrett Aleckson (Banner Journal).

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

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the accounts payable vouchers; VC #40511; CK #40533 - #40604; EP #100646 - #100654 – Totaling \$617,635.89.

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

Julie Babcock reviewed the July 2022 financials and arrearages.

Kevin LaValley provided an overview of electric operations. The line crew is busy installing an electric primary extension and new services. Kevin stated that he is working with Tesla to install a 12 station supercharger near Culver's. Kevin also outlined that with the implementation of EV chargers and the recent growth of electrical load, the Utility will likely have to start considering a conversion to a higher voltage to adequately serve the increased electric load to the system, which would come as a considerable cost. Discussion will be ongoing on this issue.

Casey Engebretson provided a brief explanation of how the Power Cost Adjustment (PCAC) is calculated and a summary of PCAC values over the last 4 ½ years.

Casey Engebretson presented an Economic Development grant request from the Black River Area Chamber of Commerce (BRACC). The grant would be used to help cover advertising expenses for the 1st Annual Trail of Terror event.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve an Economic Development grant contribution to the BRACC in the amount of \$250.00.

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

The Commission discussed the cost impacts of the Central States health insurance plan and potential wage adjustments. Casey Engebretson stated if the Utility paid 95% of the premium, the Utility would realize a savings from current projected 2022 health care costs of approximately \$47,000. Employees would contribute 5% of the premium costs and be responsible for all costs associated with deductibles, copays, coinsurance, and maximum out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, Casey stated that union membership is a requirement for eligibility of coverage through Central States. Casey provided cost

impacts for various wage adjustment percentages with an additional union dues adjustment. Casey stated that a 4% wage adjustment, plus a dues adjustment for dues paying employees, would result in a cost of approximately \$61,000. With the savings on health insurance, the net cost impact to the Utility would be approximately \$14,000. Casey stated that with the CPI hovering around 7-8% and the savings realized from the change in health insurance, he would recommend approving a 4% wage adjustment, plus a dues adjustment for dues paying employees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Amo to approve enrollment in the Central States TeamCare C6 Plan.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Amo to approve a health insurance premium contribution as follows: Employer – 95%; Employee – 5%.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve a 4% wage adjustment for non-exempt employees, with an additional dues adjustment for dues-paying employees, calculated as follows: (Hourly wage X 2.25 X 12) / 2080.

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

Casey Engebretson presented the Commission with a Voluntary Recognition Agreement with General Teamsters Local 662.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Amo to authorize Casey Engebretson to execute the Voluntary Recognition Agreement with the General Teamsters Local 662.

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

The Commission conducted a preliminary review of the draft 2023 electric, water, and sewer budgets. The Commission recommended some minor adjustments. Julie Babcock will make the changes and the final budgets will be presented at the September Utility Commission meeting for final approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Amo at 5:48 p.m. to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of any public employee subject to the jurisdiction or authority of governing body; Discussion to offer employee an additional week of vacation.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Amo at 6:00 p.m. to reconvene to open session.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Olson to award an additional week of vacation to the Collections Clerk effective January 1, 2023.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday September 26, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

comm.mtg.minutes.8.29.2022