

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 30, 2021

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on August 30, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Utility Conference Room at 119 North Water Street. Commissioners in attendance were Jay Eddy, Pete Olson, and Don Mathews. Jeff Amo 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 July 26, 2021 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to approve the accounts payable vouchers; CK #37554 - #37625; HC #100532 - #100539 – Totaling \$1,124,074.26.

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

Julie Babcock reviewed the July 2021 financials.

Julie Babcock reviewed the July 2021 arrears.

Casey Engebretson provided an update on water and sewer operations. Casey informed the Commission that the water and wastewater staff are concentrating their efforts on AMI meter replacements. The crews have installed over 300 meters this year and have approximately 120 meters left to complete the system change-out. The new sludge diaphragm pumps are now scheduled to be installed at the WWTP in October, due to product delays. The new air compressor has been installed at the WWTP.

Casey Engebretson provided an update on electric operations. Casey informed the Commission that the line crew remains busy completing new service installations and system maintenance. Jon Wussow continues to work on the remaining electric meter change-outs that require a new meter socket.

Casey Engebretson provided an update on the recent high water event. The crest was the fifth highest on record and resulted in minor damage to the buoyed boat barrier, trash rack cage, and the flashboards. When the river level recedes to a safe level, crews will work to repair damages. Casey stated that the river level will fall below our lower summer operating limit for a short period of time to allow for replacement of the flashboards and pins. Casey has completed the required notifications to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the forebay gates are deteriorating and need to be addressed, as the gates are difficult to operate and do not seal properly. Failure to close these gates fully during high water events could result in water overtopping the forebay walls. Kevin LaValley has reached out to a diving company and will be getting a price for a dive inspection.

Casey Engebretson provided the Commission with a construction update for the operations center. The Commission reviewed the schedule, the fifth payment application, change orders to-date, and project

costs-to-date. Casey estimates that the project is approximately 60-70 percent complete. The Commission plans to visit the site following the September Commission meeting.

The Commission discussed the future purchase of a forklift. Casey has reached out to two (2) suppliers to discuss pricing and availability. Casey informed the Commission that lead times on new forklifts can be up to eight (8) months. The Commission instructed Casey to develop the specifications and obtain quotes for Commission review at a future meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday September 27, 2021 at 4:30 pm, with a construction site visit following the meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to adjourn at 5:12 p.m.

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

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

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