

BLACK RIVER FALLS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2022

Utility Commission President John Lund called a meeting of the Black River Falls Municipal Utility Commission to order on September 26, 2022 at 4:30 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 Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2022 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Amo to approve the accounts payable vouchers; CK #40605 - #40675; EP #100655 - #100662 – Totaling \$701,583.97.

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

Julie Babcock reviewed the August 2022 financials and arrearages.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that the Utility and the City are working with Short Elliot Hendrickson on possible USDA, CWF, and SDWA funding options for the Pierce Street/Buchanan Street project. Casey outlined what each program offered in grant or principal forgiveness opportunities.

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission that staff is taking a closer look at chemical and sludge hauling costs and will be conducting ongoing discussions with suppliers in an effort to manage costs.

Kevin LaValley provided an overview of the City-wide power outage on September 2nd. Kevin explained the process taken by himself and the line crew and the coordination of efforts with XCEL Energy. The outage lasted for approximately two (2) hours. The cause of the outage was a fallen tree on a XCEL transmission line. The Commission commended Kevin and the line crew on a job well done.

Casey Engebretson provided a summary of PCAC values. Casey informed the Commission that power supply experts are predicting natural gas prices to remain high through the heating season. The higher gas prices will cause the market energy prices to remain high, likely causing the PCAC to remain higher than normal.

Casey Engebretson and Julie Babcock discussed the minor changes made to the budgets as a result of last month's budget discussion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the Electric, Water, and Sewer budgets as presented.

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

Casey Engebretson presented the Commission with Resolution 2022-2, which would signify that the Commission will transition to reviewing financial statements quarterly.

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve Resolution 2022-2.

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

Casey Engebretson provided an update on the new schedule.

Casey Engebretson provided the Commission with two (2) quotes for a new truck for the Water Dept. and a quote for a new service box. The quote for a 2023 Chevy ¾ ton 4x4 was \$43,940. The quote for the Dodge was for a 2022 as the dealer was unable to quote a 2023 at the time the quotes were received. The 2022 quote for the Dodge was approximately \$1,900 less than the Chevy, however, it is unknown what the actual 2023 price would be for the Dodge. With the current lead times and the small difference in pricing, Casey recommended approving the quote for the Chevy so the order could be placed. The quote for the service box was \$15,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Eddy to approve the purchase of the Chevy 2500HD 4x4 from Gross Motors for a not-to-exceed \$43,940 and the service box from Universal for \$15,000.

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

Casey Engebretson informed the Commission of the upcoming MEUW District Dinner at Skyline on October 18th. Commissioners Lund and Eddy stated they would attend the meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Olson at 5:22 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 of the initial contract between BRFMU and the General Teamsters Union Local 662.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Amo and seconded by Commissioner Olson at 5:42 p.m. to reconvene to open session.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the contract with General Teamsters Union Local 662, contingent upon language being added to Article I – General (9), stating that a new hire would contribute 5% of the lump sum cost and that a new hire would be required to reimburse the Utility the remaining 95% paid by the Utility if the new hire left employment voluntarily within one (1) year of the first date of employment.

Aye: Lund, Amo, Eddy, Olson, and Mathews

Motion Carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday October 24, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddy and seconded by Commissioner Mathews to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Casey Engebretson, General Manager

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