

Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2012

approved

Call to Order @ 3:30 pm by Peter Brandt, Utility Commission President

Roll Call. Brandt, Campfield, Eno (late), Krueger, and Joe Madden

Motion by Campfield/Krueger to approve minutes of July 17, 2012 meeting. All ayes. Carried

Public Comment (5 minute limit, no action to be taken, items not on agenda)

No public comments.

The Commission decided to postpone the lineman discussion until Mark Stanek arrives.

Well #4 progress report – Bill Collins mentioned the well project ran into a few delays, but is back on track. Underground wiring is in and Rinderer will finish that project himself. Staab has a lot of work on their end. Rinderer mentioned that he has about 15% of work that needs to be done on the well project that he will need assistance by a lineman from New Lisbon or Wonewoc.

Floodproofing progress report – Steward and Collins reported on the wall mock-ups that show color and style are on display in front of the powerhouse. There are three different color patterns, and Steward prefers going with the darker color with lighter grout lines. The mock-ups are on skids so can be moved to different parts of the property if need be. Steward will talk to the Green's and get their opinion on the wall pattern and colors.

Collins reported on the water main in the alley behind Main Street. The ideas are to dig it up and patched the pipe or replace the entire main to the hydrant. Currently the hydrant is shut off from use because of the leak in the main. This is a major inconvenience for fire suppression. It is one of the oldest mains in the City. It is only a 4-inch main and it will be better to replace it with a 6-inch or 8-inch main. Maybe patch it for short term and get it back into service, then get quotes for replacing the main – this is Collins's recommendation.

Discussion on South Lift Station – Collins reported that there was a failure due to corrosion and high water light failed. The check valve is working and they are waiting on parts. He and his staff will keep a close eye on this station.

Electric Superintendent Report – Rinderer reported that the outage opened up problems we wouldn't have found otherwise. There was an error in the substation and Rinderer will do the repair work. There are also synchronization issues with the generators. We will need an engineer or IT person to do the work. The generators need to be married correctly. The contractor will finish the project they started 6 years ago at no cost to the City.

Rinderer presented on Brunner's interruptable service contract. He passed out a timeline. Rinderer, Steward and Jim Garvin met with Ron Brunner and staff regarding the scheduled interruption of service. Brunner was not happy as it shut down production in his plants at an inappropriate time. Brunner is asking to terminate the interruptable service contract. It will be important for the Utility Commission to meet with Mike Wish of Dairyland Power and David Krause of Krause Power Engineering so that they may explain the issues at hand with the potential contract changes. A letter needs to be sent to MISO to get an explanation why the hours changed.

Rinderer handed out a report on his performance. Brandt feels secure with Craig as the Superintendent. Brandt would also like to see formal evaluations of the Superintendents in the next few months. Do one at a time.

Sewer and Water Report – Collins wants to raise hydrant by Brunner’s but at Brunner’s expense. Brunner’s requested this work to be done. Collins would like to pursue a stream testing meeting regarding phosphorus with other small communities in the area. Steward will send letter to the other communities to invite them to come to the meeting.

Discussion on bills. Krueger/Campfield to pay bills as presented. Roll call. All ayes, except Madden abstains from voting on check number 1079 as that is a payout to his business. Carried.

Discussion on lineman apprentice. Steward indicated the action of asking the number 2 candidate is appropriate and within the guidelines of the personnel manual. There was discussion on past candidates. September 10, 2012 will be the proposed start date of the new apprentice.

Madden/Eno to approve Jonathon Brock to start on September 10 as an apprentice and to join the apprentice program, and to have a 6 month introductory/probationary period. All ayes. Carried. Steward will draft contract and work with DWD on program.

Rinderer mentioned he will be on vacation from August 29 to September 4 and he has arranged coverage for the week.

Eno/Krueger to adjourn at 6:07 pm. All ayes. Carried.

Mark Steward
City Administrator