

Utility Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2014

Approved

Call to Order @ 5:30 pm by Joe Madden, Utility Commission President

Roll Call. Lange, Eno, Krueger, Madden and Campfield. Also Bill Collins, Craig Rinderer and Deputy Clerk, Lynn Thorson.

Krueger/Lange motion to approve minutes of August 19, 2014 meeting. All ayes. Carried.

Public Comment: None

Electric Superintendent – Rinderer report:

Had written report in the packet. Reported that here was a lot going on. Update on Brunner project. At last meeting Campfield had asked for a map of generator locations at Brunner's. Craig supplied members with a map he had prepared then answered general questions about the map. Problem with capacitors not working at full capacity was addressed and Brunner's have not had any more complaints with power factor.

His attitude toward budget is to move forward as we have been. Mark will present budget in detail at the next meeting.

Madden asked if spare generators purchase was budgeted for. Craig said it is and is a good savings to us. Didn't have total cost of all transformers to be purchased but said one to be purchased for 8,000 would sell for 25,000 if bought new. In total the city would save 41,000 on the purchase of the excess transformers from Lodi. Madden asked if we have storage for the extra transformers, Rinderer said yes. Campfield said it would be put on next months agenda to be voted on. Krueger feels we should get them, Rinderer agrees that it would be foolish not to.

Campfield asked about the shed project. Asked if there is room for a shed at the current electric utility facilities since the flood proofing has been completed. Rinderer feels there isn't because it is too cramped and trucks cannot get in and out easily. Rinderer said we are now looking at the property already owned by the city, which is just south of the city garage. It was discussed that it would be nice if we could purchase the house on Second Street that is right next to the power house, but after talking to the owner, that is not likely. Campfield suggested finding Ron's old file on the storage building which has the plans and to get a new estimate for what it would cost to build based on today's prices.

Water and Wastewater Superintendent Report – Collins report:

His report was written and in the packet. Collins reported on the nearly completed work that Badger has done in town. He is mostly pleased with the quality of the work that was done. A few issues were some valve boxes that had to be moved because they weren't straight, some man hole castings had to be raised or lowered and needed seals. Also there was an issue with some of the extras we asked them to do. They were completed but now they are looking for more money for lost time, etc. Collins explained that it was Badger's fault for the lost time and that we will fight the extra charges. He stated that Steward and MSA are on the same page with this issue and that if they won't lower the price, we can withhold some from final payment. But said it was good we got the extras done before this billing issue came up or Badger probably wouldn't have done them.

Collins discussed leachate contracts. Said we have a contract with Juneau County but not Monroe County. There is a problem with treating leachate from Monroe County. It has a strange color. There were high results last month on PH and phosphorus but thinks it is because of a problem with Walker's and Brunner's passivation waste because they have no holding tank for it. Back on the subject of leachate from Monroe County, we need to decide what to do. Currently we are charging 8.00 per 1,000 gallons, which is about 3,000 a week. Sparta charges them 18.00 per 1,000 gallons. We can stop accepting leachate from Monroe County at any time because we don't have a contract. Or we can accept more and raise the price to make more revenue, but would have to look into re-opening the pre-treatment plant because of the extra volume. Or could bill them based on

strength. Bill will look into cost of re-opening pre-treatment plant. Said we can always close it again during slow months.

PERS-Campfield said, if we do it, the state should be notified that the plant would be missing that part of the equipment. Collins says we should ok the contract before the price goes up. Contractor can't do it until Spring and the cost could go up if we wait to ok it until then. Collins recommends approving it now at this cost. Campfield says that we should put a time limit on the project with the contractor to avoid any violations, and to contact the DNR to let them know we are looking at doing the equipment repair. Collins says he will set up a telephone conference between himself, the contractor, and the DNR. Collins says the best time to have the project done would be in February when there is less going on.

Administrator's Report-none until next month.

Thorson handed out the job notice and description for the DPW position to the commission members to look at. There were questions about where it was going to be advertised.

Thorson called attention to the letter in the commission packet from the utility clerk that explained a new issue in regards to offering payment plans to tenants. Told the commission to become familiar with the new options as it would be on the next meeting's agenda for action.

Thorson also called attention to the upcoming MEUW meeting notice in the packet and let them know that if they are interested in attending one of the meetings they should let the utility clerk know by the next commission meeting so she can get them registered. Rinderer was asked if he would be attending and he said no.

Commission discussed the decision to try to find a DPW to fill the position vacated by Collins when he retires. What would be plan B? Possibly dividing duties between current employees and adding a position under them.

Eno/Krueger motion to approve the bills. All ayes. Carried.

Krueger/Campfield motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. All ayes. Carried.

Lynn Thorson
Deputy Clerk