

## UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING

March 20, 2012

*APPROVED*

Utility Commission President Mark Stanek called meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**Members present:** Brandt, Campfield, Eno, Krueger and Stanek.

**Members absent:** None

**Others present:** Mark Steward City Administrator, Bill Collins Water/Wastewater Superintendent, Craig Rinderer Electric Superintendent

Approval of Minutes – Campfield/Krueger. All ayes. Carried.

At the last meeting the sewer and water vehicles were discussed. Collins clarified that it was the newer truck (2004) that is rusting out not the one we are planning on trading in.

Public Comment (5 min. limit): None

Discussion and possible action on the Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project

Steward presented the map. Eno and Campfield had questions about the line and proposed locations. Rinderer shed light on the purpose of the line. He explained that it will not go north of the City limits, and it may not encroach on the City property. The Commission asked that staff continue to monitor the project.

Discussion and possible action on purchasing a building in Elroy to store equipment

Steward presented the Benson Fruit building on Huston Street as an option to consider for the utility departments to use. There is one metal building with five bays and one concrete building which would need to be torn down. Silverthorn wanted another building for storage and it never happened. Rinderer thinks we need another building and to possibly find an existing one rather than build one and this may suit our need. However, it is better to build one behind the future flood wall and keep all things together. It was agreed that the utilities will not pursue these buildings.

Discussion and possible action on cross departmental charges for labor

Through staff research it was determined that water and sewer department personnel spend on average of 400 hours per year on city general activities most of which are at the pool. Electric department personnel spend about half of the water and sewer department time. In total city general was billed more than \$10,000 in 2011 by the utilities for staff services, whereas, city general only charged \$500 back to the utilities. These hours need to be adjusted into the budgets to accurately reflect the work. City general needs to account for the hours they work for the utilities. Hours will not be billed across departmental lines anymore, but the 2013 budget will reflect where the hours are used. Collins would consider authorizing Mark Saemisch to train city general personnel to care for the pool. It was stated that the City may need to consider closing the pool or selling it, if it is not cost effective to run.

6:55 pm Brandt excused himself as he left the meeting to go to work.

Discussion and possible action on quotes for the cooling tower

Rinderer spoke on a reconditioned cooling tower and the need to replace the 40 year old tower.

Campfield/Eno to approve option A from FMI for a reconditioned Marley Aquatower for \$18,200. Roll call. All ayes. Carried.

Discussion and possible action on sale of electric meter test bench

Rinderer spoke about the electric meter test bench and the sale of it as it is no longer needed here. Wonewoc is in need of this item and they want the bench.

Eno/Krueger to donate the electric meter test bench to Wonewoc for their use. All ayes. Carried.

Electric Superintendent report:       None

Sewer and Water Superintendent report: Collins explained a few issues related to sanitary and storm sewers and their connectivity near the river. Collins suggested a few options. 1. Maybe line or pipe burst at sanitary sewer at Western Avenue near where culvert is collapsing, a possible 2012 project. 2. Utilize a contractor and go out for bids to repair these sewers. Ideally the sanitary sewer project needs to be coordinated with the storm sewer/road project. Collins, Ladwig and Steward will continue to discuss options on Western Avenue.

Campfield/Krueger to approve bills for payment. Roll call. All ayes. Carried.

Commission communications: Campfield asked if Stanek is elected Mayor will he have to step down from the Utility Commission. The answer is yes. Campfield then asked if the City will advertise to fill the vacancy. Steward stated that if people are interested they can notify City Hall, but we can also put something in the paper. Bruce Lang, Mark Hill were names that surfaced as possible candidates to fill the spot. We will wait until the election then determine course of action. The Mayor has the ability to appoint the next commission member with ratification by the City Council.

Krueger/Eno to adjourn at 7:30 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Steward  
City Administrator*