

BOARD OF WATERWORKS COMMISSIONERS - 3: 30 PM - (Monday, October 18, 2021)Generated by Joe Trueblood on Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Commissioners Present:

Gerald Van De Kreeke, Tom Howe, Rich Dale

Staff:

Superintendent Joe Trueblood

1. OPENING OF MEETINGCommissioner Van De Kreeke called the meeting to order at 3: 31 PM.

1.1 Pledge of AllegianceAll present honored the flag of the United States of America.

1.2 Election of OfficersCommissioner Howe made a motion nominating Gerald Van De Kreeke as President, seconded by Commissioner Dale.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion nominating Tom Howe as Secretary, seconded by Commissioner Dale.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Howe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Van De Kreeke, nominating Rich Dale as Member.

Motion carried unanimously.

In each case, three calls for nominations were made.

2. MINUTES

2.1 Approval of minutes from the September 20, 2021 meeting Commissioner Howe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Van De Kreeke, to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2021 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Financial reports and approval of vouchers Superintendent reviewed the financial reports prepared by Accountant Gottsacker, including gross payroll of \$161,273.24 and general vouchers of \$354,573.

47.

Commissioner Howe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Van De Kreeke to approve the financial reports and vouchers.

Motion carried unanimously.

3.2 Superintendent's report including operations, construction-maintenance, and customer relations/fiscal Superintendent reviewed the reports prepared by supervisory staff.

Commissioner Van De Kreeke inquired about a repair spot near 1320 S. 12 th Street and Superintendent stated he would follow up on checking it out.

Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dale, to accept the superintendent's report as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. ITEMS PREVIOUSLY HELD OVER FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4.1 Raw Water Improvements project Superintendent noted that WI PSC has issued construction authorization of up to \$46 M for the Raw Water Improvements project.

WDNR permits and Corp of Army Engineer approvals are all now in place as well.

Final easements were approved by the Common Council.

The only remaining approvals would be at the Planning/Architectural Review Boards.

Superintendent noted that as the building is close the shore, a variance is needed on that element.

Superintendent anticipates presentation of the project to Planning/Architectural Review in early November, and any issues can then be addressed before going out to bid by late November.

Superintendent also noted further development of the concept of possibly using spoils from the suction well excavation (estimated at 3,000 CY) as fill material in the upper portion of the ravine adjacent to the Utility driveway.

Decades ago, a wooden retaining wall was installed along the slope there, and it has begun to demonstrate signs of failure.

Various means exist for stabilizing the wall, including filling or reduction of the slope itself.

This option would provide more usable space in the parkland, allow a means for moving overhead electrical lines to underground, and avoid more costly rehabilitation of the retaining wall.

At this point, the Utility intends to include an alternate bid item related to stockpiling or placing the excavation spoils in the ravine instead of trucking them offsite.

A decision on this alternate element would then be made later, following further input from park authorities.

Superintendent noted that the Common Council is close to approval of \$9.5 M in ARPA grants going to the RWI project to offset debt.

These funds would be greatly appreciated and would uniformly benefit all citizens who are customers of the Utility.

In addition, Superintendent advised that no determination has yet been made regarding approximately \$2.0 M in directed spending for the project from Senator Tammy Baldwin.

Superintendent also advised of his own concern regarding the bidding environment.

There is great uncertainty.

Meanwhile the project remains on schedule to begin construction in 2022.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5.1 Update on water rate case Superintendent noted that Accountant Gottsacker had responded to a WI PSC data request two weeks ago.

No further information is available.

5.2 Review consultant's health insurance recommendations Superintendent introduced Mr. Anthony Fioretti of ET Health and Benefits.

Mr. Fioretti was engaged by the Board in 2020 to develop a strategic plan for the Utility's health insurance package, which has long been one of the strongest benefits offered by the Utility.

As a self-funded plan, the offering has done very well for many years, but recently has suffered from higher claims.

Mr. Fioretti began developing options

to help move the Utility's plan closer to relevant benchmarks.

At some point in time, the Board might need to consider moving to a fully insured plan, which would offer some advantages but also disadvantages.

Mr. Fioretti reviewed three alternative options developed that could be implemented with the new calendar year.

The document describing the alternatives had been shared with all staff members earlier in October.

The alternatives involved changes to deductibles, coinsurance, prescription co-pay, and other factors intended to bring the plan closer to benchmarks provided by Mr. Fioretti for public sector employees.

Another change involved a flat co-pay for office visits.

After discussion, Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to accept Plan option B, which involves changes to the following:

\$750 /\$1,500 deductibles, coinsurance at 80 %/ 20 %, OOP maximum at \$1,500 /\$3,000, \$40 /\$80 flat co-pay for PCP/specialist office visit, drugs at 70 %/ 30 % form/non-form.

The motion passed unanimously.

5.3 Request approval of R.O. transmitting third quarter results Commissioner Dale made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to

approve the R.O. transmitting third quarter results to Council

Motion passed unanimously.

5.4 Request approval of change to LSL program grant amounts Superintendent reviewed a summary document from Supervisor McMillan regarding lead service line (LSL) program grants under the Utility's LSL program.

The original authorization by the Board included allowing a maximum grant amount of up to \$2,500 but not to exceed 50 % of the cost of the LSL replacement.

Currently the grant portion can be paid using WDNR grant monies, but typically the LSL replacement costs more than \$5,000.

So the Utility is not fully benefiting from the WDNR grant program for LSL.

Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to increase the grant portion to \$6,000 and not to exceed 50 % of the LSL replacement cost.

Motion passed unanimously.

5.5 Update on lead sampling study results WDNR recently notified Utility staff that Sheboygan's population is approaching the threshold of 50,000 people.

When above that level, water utilities will face additional lead sampling requirements, which include interval sampling of 1 liter water samples.

The Operations Supervisor selected four sites to try interval sampling.

The sampling persons were instructed to not use any water all night and then fill ten (1) liter bottles in the morning, one after the other.

In some cases, the lead level varied by a factor of 3.

In all cases, the lead result was reduced after the 10 th liter, which confirms the value of running water in the morning to flush out the water that sat in the lead service lateral over night.

More data will be collected, but it is very clear that a single lead test does not categorize lead levels at any particular site.

Possible factors include water temperature, pH, phosphate levels, length of lateral, water pressure, flow rate.

6. PERSONNEL

6.1 Update on Distribution Technician vacancy Superintendent advised that Mr. Josh Sizonen will be starting as a new Distribution Technician on November 1, 2021.

Mr. Sizonen has background in plumbing, trenchwork, and electrical work.

6.2 Update on Billing/LSL Specialist position Superintendent confirmed that Ms. Brenda Doherty will be promoted into the new role once a new Utility Support Specialist is on-board.

6.3 Review wage increase plan Superintendent updated the Board on the ongoing midwest CPI exceeding 5.0 %.

The Board remains committed to the ongoing wage increase plan based on midwest CPI as the

middle bin.

7. NEXT MEETING

7.1 Next meeting will take place on November 15, 2021.

8. ADJOURN

8.1 Motion to AdjournAt 5: 08 PM, Commissioner Dale made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Howe.

Motion passed unanimously.