

BOARD OF WATERWORKS COMMISSIONERS - 3: 30 PM - (Monday, May 17, 2021)Generated  
by Joe Trueblood on Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Board Members present:

Gerald Van De Kreeke, President;

Mark Smith, Secretary;

Tom Howe, Member

(all remote)

Staff members present:

Superintendent Joe Trueblood

(remote)

Visitors:

Ms. Julie Meyer, Hub International (remote)

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

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

### 2. MINUTES

2.1 Approval of minutes from the April 19, 2021 meetingCommissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to approve the April 19, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. REPORTS

3.1 Financial reports

3.2 Superintendent's report including operations, construction-maintenance, and customer relations/fiscal Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to approve the financial reports and Superintendent's reports as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. ITEMS PREVIOUSLY HELD OVER FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

##### 4.1

Raw Water Improvements (RWI) project Superintendent updated the Board members on developments including 95 % completion of detailed design, recent coordination meeting with City staff members regarding final project design and easement issues, and funding possibilities including directed spending projects assigned to federal representatives.

Superintendent noted that he would be making a submission to Senator Baldwin's office later in the week.

In addition, RWI came in # 7 on the initial project listing released by WDNR for Safe Drinking Water loans, and this means funding would be available through the loan program in all likelihood.

Superintendent advised that if other grant sources are available, then the WDNR loan program simply would make up the difference.

However, the probability of receiving grant funding, whether through FEMA BRIC, American Recovery Plan, federal infrastructure bill, or directed spending is unknown.

#### 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5.1 Request approval of R.O. seeking modification of existing easement for RWI project Superintendent noted that the City of Sheboygan had granted a permanent easement to the Water Utility in 2006 for the purpose of constructing and operating a raw water station on the shoreline immediately north of existing Water Utility lands.

Due to existing plant structures on Utility lands, this site is the only economically viable site for the Raw Water Improvements project.

As the project has now nearly at final design, additional space is needed due to the need for more extensive shoreline protection, a service driveway, external transformers, and underground pipes connecting to the water treatment plant.

Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the R.O. and send the request to the Common Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

5.2 Request approval of R.O. submitting 2020 Utility audit report Superintendent noted this item had been addressed at the last meeting.

5.4 Request approval of engineering proposal for Sheboygan River water main crossing Superintendent reviewed information provided by Supervisor McMillan showing the location of a proposed water main installed beneath the Sheboygan River near the Garton Toy factory apartments.

The Utility has not replaced any river crossings for decades other than installing one near Lutheran high school to serve the new Art Preserve area.

Most of the river crossing water mains are decades old, and a new crossing has been in planning for many years.

Superintendent anticipated the water main would be either 12 " or 16 " diameter depending on directional drilling economics.

The Board members reviewed a proposal from AECOM for all engineering services up to and including construction at a cost not to exceed \$47,875.00.

Commissioner

Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to accept the proposal.

Motion passed unanimously.

5.5 Update Board on submission of WDNR needs survey Superintendent informed the Board of the Utility's recent submittal of project information in response to WDNR's voluntary needs survey.

This information helps

planning for the Safe Drinking Water loan program.

5.6 Request approval for health insurance plan renewalMs. Julie Meyer of Hub International joined the meeting and was introduced.

Ms. Meyer reviewed health insurance renewals from Prairie States/Northwinds for the Utility's existing self-insured plan, including options to increase the stop loss limit from \$60,000 to \$70,000 or \$80,000.

Due to the plan's small number of covered members and recent higher cost years, only one stop loss company offered a renewal, which included a

specific laser of \$400,000 and treatment contingent laser of \$1.5 M on one covered member;

Ms. Meyer explained that the contingent treatment would likely not be covered by the Plan.

Last year's renewal included two lasers at a total amount of \$500,000.

Ms. Meyer than reviewed fully insured plan options from a number of providers.

Fully insured plans would not provide the exact level of coverage because the plans are not flexible but rather come "off the shelf."

The estimated range of costs under a fully insured plan came in at \$600000 - \$800,000...

These costs do not include add-ons such as dental/vision/HIPAA/COBRA administration.

Fully insured plans also do not allow retirees to pay full premium and stay on the Utility's plan.

The Utility Accountant had prepared a summary of cost information showing that actual costs under the self-insured plan for 2011 - 2020 were nearly the same as if the Utility had been under a fully insured plan;

however, if higher claims cost continue, then the economics could lean more in favor of fully insured plans.

ET Consulting had provided recommended options if the Board determined to renew its self-insured plan.

These options came out of a year-long strategic planning effort focused on maintaining both a high quality health insurance plan while implementing

stronger cost controls intended to benchmark more closely with public utility plans.

The three recommended options included higher coinsurance, higher deductibles, lower payment on non-generic prescriptions, and additional costs for non-private clinic family physician appointments.

had also recommended that the Board implement a private clinic offering if it chooses to maintain its self-funded plan.

The benchmark analysis indicated

that the current monthly contribution for family coverage is below benchmark whereas the contribution for single coverage is at benchmark.

A number of these steps would

also help if the Board determines to transition to a fully insured plan in the future.

After discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the renewal from Prairie States/Northwind at an \$80,000 stop loss limit, implement the private clinic offering as recommended, and increase monthly contributions for family coverage from \$300 to \$375 per month.

In addition, Commissioner Smith added that ET's

recommended options should be further reviewed, as those would not go into effect until January 1.

Commissioner Van De Kreeke seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5.7 Review WDNR sanitary survey results Superintendent reviewed the sanitary survey results based on a recent inspection conducted with Supervisor Swearingen.

No major deficiencies were noted.

Several minor deficiencies were noted including absence of screening on an overflow pipe and substandard distance between ground and an overflow pipe.

Concerns related to intake vulnerability to frazil ice and surface runoff would be improved under the forthcoming RWI project.

5.8 Request approval for replacement of lead services lines on Indiana Avenue Superintendent noted that, on the upcoming Indiana Avenue water main replacement, there are four parcels currently not in the City but that

might annex in the future.

To avoid digging up new pavement, Supervisor McMillan recommended installation of 4 water service lines to the right of way for each parcel for future use.

If the parcels annex, a connection fee would be due, reimbursing the Utility for the cost, which is estimated at \$2,500 per service line.

Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the installation at a total cost of \$10,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. PERSONNEL Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to convene in closed session as pursuant to Sec. 19.85 (1) (c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation and performance evaluation data of a public employee [or public employees] over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Motion passed unanimously and the meeting moved into closed session.

On returning to open session, Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Van De Kreeke, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation regarding changes in the engineering department.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. NEXT MEETING

7.1 Next meeting will take place on June 21, 2021 at 3: 30 PM.

8. ADJOURN

8.1 Motion to AdjournAt 5: 01 PM, Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.