



**RIB MOUNTAIN
METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT**
151401 ASTER ROAD
WAUSAU, WI 54401
715-359-7852
Rmmsd@ribmountainmetro.com

DIRECTOR:
Eric Donaldson

SUPERINTENDENT:
Andy Heise

"Doing our part for the Wisconsin River."

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2024

Commission President, Robert Stavran, called the meeting of the Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District (Metro) to order at 11:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL - Commission Members Present: Robert Stavran, James Pauls, Thomas Kipp, Keith Biedermann.

Also Present: Eric Donaldson; Director; Andy Heise; Superintendent; Sandra Balz; Administrative Clerk; Jared Grand, Mike Heyroth, Trustee, Gerry Klein and Gaylene S. Rhoden, Administrator from Village of Rib Mountain. Ryan Van de Walle, Village of Rothschild and Matt Peterson, Becker Hoppe on recorded Zoom.

Commission Members Absent: James Strehlow was excused.

MINUTES APPROVAL – Mr. Kipp made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2024, and Mr. Biedermann seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CHECK REGISTER APPROVAL - Mr. Kipp made a motion to approve the following March checks and Mr. Biedermann seconded the motion. Questioned and unanimously passed.

Debt Service -On-line Payment-CWF Loan	\$
Asset/Capital Improv. CK# 908	\$ 9,530.00
General Checks -Prepaid CK# 30472,73,30480-82	\$ 3,476.29
General Checks CK# 30483 - 30505	\$ 75,942.61
Manual/Auto Payments	\$ 73,506.07
TOTAL	<u>\$ 162,454.97</u>

DIRECTOR/SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Budget Comparison Report – Reviewed.

Asset/Replacement Request – Donaldson explained that computer replacements from Altronex Control Systems are necessary for our software to work properly and perform our daily tasks. Looking at 10 devices and 2 laptops with software. SCADA Replacement money would be used to purchase these devices and software.

A motion was made by Mr. Biedermann and seconded by Mr. Kipp to approve the purchase from Altronex in the amount of \$111,152.00. Questioned and unanimously passed.

PLANT REPORT

High Influent & Effluent BOD – Donaldson stated we are compliant for February and March.

OLD BUSINESS

PHASE II - Construction Update/Safety Report – Eric indicated that CD Smith had provided the requested safety manual. Eric reviewed the section on trenching and agreed that if followed the workers would be safer. Also, CD Smith is ordering equipment and working on shop drawings so won't be on site until late July/early August.

***Added Cost due to Village of Rib Mountain unnecessary delays in approving Conditional Use Permit** –In attendance from Village of Rib Mountain were Mike Heyroth, Jared Grande, Gerry Klein and Gaylene Rhoden.

Eric started with a summary of the meetings Eric had attended to attain approval of the project including the Plan Commission (13 March) and Trustee Board (both 19 and 26 March). Eric indicated that at the 13 March Plan Commission meeting the project was questioned and approved unanimously but then the 19 March Trustee Board meeting the CUP was tabled unanimously.

Eric indicated that the day of 20 March was spent talking to our legal counsel (Godfrey & Kahn), engineer (Strand) and multiple people from the Village of Rib Mountain. Eric indicated that he also sent out numerous emails to the lawyer, engineer, commissioners, et al in order to convince the Village of Rib Mountain that the Trustee Board needed to meet again immediately in order to fix the legal mistake that was made at the 19 March Trustee Board meeting as there was no substantial evidence to not approve the conditional use permit (2017 WISC. Act 67) and if the project is further delayed, RMMSD could lose the BABA waiver which could add a 20% increase to the project cost with corresponding rate increase.

Eric indicated that the cost of the discussions on 20 March was about \$2500 (\$1500 lawyer, \$1000 engineer) and that the Commissioners per diem could be added to that amount.

VORM representatives indicated their concern with the 60% rate increase that RMMSD put in place October 2023 and that existing monies should be used to help pay for the project or spread the rate increase over more than one year.

After much discussion the Commissioners voted unanimously to NOT charge VORM anything extra for the unnecessary delays and added costs as the Village of Rib Mountain's comprehensive plan includes the shared goal of continuing to work together to maintain and upgrade the wastewater treatment system.

A motion was made by Mr. Pauls and seconded by Mr. Kipp to **not** pass any additional costs onto the Village of Rib Mountain.

CWF Loan closing is scheduled for June 2024.

PH Issue Update – Donaldson gave an update: there were no spikes in March.

Crystal Finishing Update – Donaldson gave an update on their compliance.

Bank Account Summary – Reviewed.

Meeting Room Equipment – We will use Capital/Asset Fund money. Donaldson is obtaining quotes.

Applied Laser Technology – No update this month.

Discussion of RMMSD Website – A lengthy discussion was held regarding possibly putting our meeting packets on website and the timing of when we get our information (Invoices, BOD #'s, Budget Comparison) Donaldson will provide Plant Reports -BOD/TSS numbers to Communities and post on the site, as soon as available.

NEW BUSINESS

Low General Fund Balance – We have been paying out more expenses due to the Phase II Project. We will be moving Equipment Replacement money, that is over our minimum required balance in the amount of \$692,000 to our General Fund Account.

Bremax Dental & Vision Insurance Plans – Eric is looking into Dental & Vision premiums. For future discussion. Will be on May 14, 2024, Agenda.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Kipp to look into Ehler's Municipal services. And Mr. Kipp will provide Eric with contact information. We will put on May 14, 2024, Agenda for further discussion.

Note: A tape of the proceedings of the Public Hearings & Regular Meetings are on file for approximately 90 days at the Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District, 151401 Aster Road, Wausau, WI.

ADJOURNED - At 1:40 PM, with no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Pauls seconded by Mr. Kipp. Questioned and unanimously passed.

Sandra E. Balz, Administrative Clerk

Date Approved