

Water & Sewer Commission Meeting

April 28, 2025

The Independence Water & Sewer Commission met on Monday April 28, 2025, at the City Hall, 23688 Adams Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Tom Kloss. In attendance Tom Kloss, Richard Warner, Craig Konter, Tom Jensen, Jason Ekern, Joe Galewski, Randy "Fritz" Conrad, and Dawn Abrahamson.

Proof of Giving Public Notice: Yes

Approval of Agenda: Motioned by Jason Ekern and Seconded by Tom Jensen. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of acclamation to approve.

Approval of Minutes –March 24, 2025: Motion by Craig Konter to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2025 meeting as presented. Second by Jason Ekern. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of acclamation to approve.

Public Comments: None

Resignation of Commissioner: Tom Kloss advised this will be his last meeting overseeing the group due to his appointment of Mayor. Tom Kloss explained the background of Randy "Fritz" Conrad. Tom Jensen motion to appoint Conrad on Water & Sewer, seconded by Craig Konter. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Old Business:

- A. No Action on High Ammonia at the Public School:** Joe met with Paul Franzwa, Joe Bragger, Janitor, lead cook and Brian Bautch. Milk theory didn't work. School will have to cut into floor of commons to check the trap. School board taking the lead.
- B. Discussion with Possible Action Davy Facility Plan Review:** approved to do ferric room plumbing & electrical, but goes with Item D.
- C. Status Update of Water Pipe Survey:** Joe is digging potholes to check material in the ground.
- D. Discussion with Possible Action Ferric Tank and Shed:** Discussed bids for Plumbing, Electrical and chemical storage tanks. Plumbing-Larson and Semingson bids. Motion by Jason Ekern to go with Larson Plumbing for the bid on plumbing, seconded by Tom Jensen. Roll call vote, 5-0 yes. Motion Carried. Electrical- Osseo. Jacobson and Slaby bids. Motioned by Tom Jensen to go with Osseo Electric for Electrical, seconded by Jason Ekern. Roll Call vote, 5-0 yes. Motion Carried. Chemical Storage Tank- Herrington, Fibertech and Hawkins bids. Motion by Rich Warner to leave decision up to Joe to decide

but also taking freight cost and tariffs into consideration, seconded by Tom Jensen. Roll call vote, 5-0 yes. Motion Carried.

- E. Discussion with Update Grant Application:** Dawn has not heard and will check and update next meeting.

New Business:

- A. City Office and Council Update:** Tom Kloss announced Dawn is the new City Clerk once Council approves next week. Also, Lenice and Dawn went on a tour of the Sewer plant from where it comes in and to the end.
- B. Discussion with Possible Action on Independence Public School Water Bill:** Information provided. Motioned by Tom Jensen to reimburse the school, seconded by Rich Warner. Roll Call Vote, 2-3 yes. Motioned denied. More discussion needs to be done. We have money invested in ammonia testing. We can't hold money hostage if we are in wrong, but school also owes money. We can send check but also send letter from city attorney about the billing on ammonia testing/fines. Tom Kloss will meet with Rick, our city attorney. Tom Jensen will meet with Dawn to go over costs for Ammonia for school. Motioned by Jason Ekern to pay half now and half in 30 days with letter from attorney of progress billing, seconded by Rich Warner. Roll Call Vote, 5-0 yes. Motion Carried.
- C. Discussion with Possible Action 23616 Whitehall Rd Water Bill:** Information provided. Motioned by Tom Jensen to Refund \$933.11, so bill is \$673.28, seconded by Jason Ekern. Roll Call Vote, 4-1 yes. Motion carried.
- D. Discussion with Possible Action 35657 5th St Water Bill:** Information provided. Motioned by Rich Warner to deny, seconded by Craig Konter. Roll Call Vote, 5-0 yes. Motion Carried.
- E. Well Pump Inspection:** Bids for inspection provided from Water Well Solutions, CTW and Municipal. Motion by Tom Jensen to approve Municipal Bid for \$21,400, seconded by Jason Ekern. Roll Call Vote, 5-0 yes. Motion Carried.

Superintendents Report

- A. Disconnect Update:** Disconnect posted. Curb stop leak at 6th St. Possible job shadow student from Independence High School.
- B. Jetter Status:** Sold for \$1775.00

Commissioners Report: Joe stated we received our DNR inspection back on Friday. All good news. Well Blow Air rotted so had to fix. It was fixed with stainless steel. Joe will be going to a conference later this week.

Items for Next Agenda

Old Business:

- A. Action High Ammonia at Public School
- B. on Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering/Ferric Tank/Shed
- C. Status update on Water Pipe Survey
- D. Discussion with Update Grant Application
- E. City Office and Council Update
- F. Well Pump Inspection
- G. Disconnect Update

Future Date for the next Meeting

May 27, 2025 @ 6:15pm

Adjournment at 8:16 PM

Dawn Abrahamson, City Clerk