**Water & Sewer Commission Meeting**

**January 28, 2019**

The Independence Water & Sewer Commission met on Monday, January 28, 2019 at City Hall, 23688 Adams Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Ben Sylla. Present were Dave Galewski, Tom Kloss, Craig Konter, Mayor Baecker, Dennis Pronschinske, and Kari Pedersen. Chad Miemietz arrived later.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Tom Kloss and seconded by Craig Konter to approve the minutes from the December 27, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tom Kloss and seconded by Craig Konter to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion Carried.

**Old Business**

**SEH Update – Water Filter**

SEH was here to do the study on the backwash practice that is in place. As they conclude their study, they would like to switch from a daily backwash to only needing to every 2-3 days. We can expect a full report on this at February’s meeting.

**SEH Update**

Ben read through the SEH memo providing an update on the projects they are working on, nothing has changed from last month.

**GNP Future BOD/Phosphorus/Ammonia Rates Proposal & Action**

Went over Pilgrims’ rate proposals that SEH put together. These rates were discussed and well received by Pilgrim’s at the meeting that was held with their employees, our commission members and SEH. Motion by Dave Galewski and seconded by Tom Kloss to adopt the new rates starting in February. Motion Carried. Tom Kloss would like to thank Pilgrim’s for being good neighbors and understanding our need for switching the rates.

**Mixer Update – Crane Engineering**

Travis from Crane Engineering will be bring the mixer back tomorrow and they will install it while they are here.

**Ammonia Levels at Syphon**

The levels north of the syphon were originally ruled out as being a problem area but this week the ammonia levels came back high on both sides. The commission would like Dennis to keep testing, starting at Bushy’s locations first and followed by both Kabus Autobody locations. In the meantime, the commission would like Dennis to have a conversation with Ted to see what paints/cleaners he is using to see if that would help to narrow it down.

**New Business**

**Ehlers Financial Snapshot Discussion**

Ben had a discussion with Sean, our Financial Advisor, about the status of the Water & Sewer Utility. Currently, the water utility is doing well but the sewer utility is not. To remain financially solvent, Sean suggests a sewer rate increase. He is willing to do a study if that is something that the commission would like. At this point, the commission doesn’t think that is necessary.

Kari will be working with the auditors in February to apply for the 5% water rate increase. Options were discussed for the sewer rates, including a percentage increase for usage or implementing a base meter fee increase. By doing this, the utility would see a fixed increase in their revenue. Kari will put together a projection of $35-$75/month increase for each size meter to see the percentage the rates would increase and have it ready for presenting at the February meeting.

**Utility Projects Discussion**

1. **Water/Sewer Madison Street (3rd-4th Street)**

The water main on Madison needs to be replaced. If those streets get replaced this Summer it is suggested that the water main gets replaced as well.

**b. Draining & Cleaning Reservoir**

This needs to be done in 2019, per the DNR requirements. This year it needs to be drained completely and inspected. Dennis should collect 3 quotes to present at the March meeting.

**Waste water Sand Mine**

It was brought up that maybe HiCrush would be interested in our effluent to wash sand. It was discussed if that would even be a possibility with the DNR due to leaching & contamination. After crunching construction numbers, it doesn’t see like it would be financially feasible unless HiCrush would be wiling to help pay for it.

**Water/Sewer Lot Development**

Mayor Baecker brought up a potential project the City is looking into, purchasing lots near the TIF for future expansion. By doing this, the utility would have additional users. The capacity of the WWTP was brought up and the size of the lift station pump would possibly need to be upgraded should those lots develop.

**Revenues & Expenses**

None

**Training**

1. **First Supply**

A class is being held in Eau Claire covering hydrants. 4 DNR classes are offered for this class.

1. **Crane Engineering**

Eli and Buzz were registered for this class but won’t be able to make it due to snow plowing

February 27th Dennis, Eli and Kevin are going to a Digger’s Hotline training in Arcadia from 7a-10a.

**Superintendent’s Report**

* Dennis has a guy coming on 2/21 or 2/22 to do a phosphorus study for free.
* Eli needs to get a hepatitis shot and Dennis needs a booster.

**Closed session per Section 19.85.85(10(c) Wis. Statutes to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.**

Motion by Chad Miemietz and seconded by Craig Konter to enter closed session. Motion Carried with Craig, Tom, Chad, Ben and Dave voting Aye.

Motion by Tom Kloss and seconded by Craig Konter to move forward with the motion that was made in closed session. Motion Carried. Dave Galewski abstained.

Interviews will be held on February 18th beginning with a meeting with Eli at 5:30 and interviews to following being at 6pm. Adam Grulkowski, Joe Galewski, Josh Walek, and Rylee Sobotta will be interviewed.

**Items & Date for Next Month’s Meeting**

Monday, February 25, 2019 @ 6:15

* SEH Updates - Water Filter & WWTP Projects
* Ammonia Testing
* Base Rate Review and Action
* Water Main on Madison Street
* Revenue/Expense & Audit Report
* Training
* Superintendent Report

**Commissioner’s Comments**

None.

Motion to adjourn by Dave Galewski and seconded by Chad Miemietz. Motion Carried at 9:05pm

Kari Pedersen

Deputy City Clerk