**Water & Sewer Commission Meeting**

**February 25, 2019**

The Independence Water & Sewer Commission met on Monday, February 25, 2019 at City Hall, 23688 Adams Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:18pm by Ben Sylla. Present were Dave Galewski, Chad Miemietz, Craig Konter, Mayor Baecker, Dennis Pronschinske, Jason Ekern, and Kari Pedersen.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Craig Konter and seconded by Chad Miemietz to approve the minutes from January 28th and February 18th as presented. Motion Carried.

**Old Business**

**SEH Update – Water Filter**

The memo from SEH was gone over. Based on the testing that was completed, John Thom with SEH recommends doing backwashing every 3-4 days vs daily like we have been doing. As of February 4th, Dennis switched to every other day instead of daily. Energenecs will be sending a proposal for doing programming updates to have the backwash automatically run on a set schedule.

**SEH Update – WWTP Projects**

No new updates. Ben spoke with Jeff with SEH and told him to keep moving forward with the anticipation of needing to deal with high ammonia levels.

**Ammonia Testing**

Dennis reported that he was having trouble with the portable samplers blowing fuses. He ordered new fuses, got them installed, and they are ready to go. The commission would like Dennis to continue testing, starting with Bushy’s, Kabus, Edison’s and the schools.

**New Business**

**Well #2 Issues**

There were some issues up at the Well on 2/13-2/14. A transducer was out-it has been repaired and everything is running as it should be. Ben would like to discuss this issue further in Closed Session.

**Furnaces – Heaters**

1. **Wastewater Plant Chemical Room**

The ignitor is bad, Dennis will be getting it repaired.

**b. Well #2 Chemical Room**

The last week of January it was discovered that there was a bad switch on the furnace. Schaffner’s ordered the part and haven’t been back to finish the repair. Dennis will follow up tomorrow to see when to expect it to be fully repaired.

**Sewer Rate Increase Discussion & Action**

Went over the rate increase options spreadsheet and discussed the pros/cons. Motion by Chad Miemietz and seconded by Craig Konter to raise residential sewer base fees by $70 per month with commercial users following suit by percentage. Motion passed 4-0 on a roll vote with Craig, Chad, Ben, and Dave all voting Aye. Tom Kloss was absent.

**Meter Installations**

Meters were installed at Lori Everin’s and Lorraine Sobotta’s residences and are being billed appropriately.

**Revenues & Expenses**

General Discussion

**Training**

1. **Digger’s Hotline**

Kevin, Dennis, and Eli are all attending this training in Arcadia, pending weather, on 2/27.

1. **Rural Water – March 26-29**

Dennis is planning to attend and will extend the invite to Jim and Eli to go and obtain continuing education credits

**Superintendent’s Report**

Dennis reported that he’s been working on getting snow removed from around the fire hydrants. Due to the snow he doesn’t have water meters read yet this month but hopes to finish them in the next day or two.

**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 Craig Konter and seconded by Chad Miemietz to enter closed session. Motion Carried 4-0 with Craig, Chad, Ben and Dave voting Aye. Tom Kloss was absent.

At this point, Dave Galewski was excused from the meeting and Jason Ekern became a voting member of the Commission, based on the decision of the City Council.

Motion by Craig Konter and seconded by Jason Ekern to return to Open Session. Motion Carried.

Motion by Chad Miemietz and seconded by Jason Ekern to offer Joe Galewski the position of Water & Sewer Operator with the following conditions pending pre-employment health screen and sufficient background check:

 $17.25/hour

 1-year probation - $1.00 raise if all tests are completed

 $.25 raise per test

 Optional 90-Day Commission requested reviews

Motion passed 4-0 with Ben, Jason, Craig, and Chad voting Aye. Tom Kloss was absent.

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

Monday, March 25, 2019 @ 6:15

* SEH Updates - Water Filter & WWTP Projects
* Ammonia Testing
* Hiring Update
* Furnace Update
* Superintendent Report

**Commissioner’s Comments**

None.

Motion to adjourn by Chad Miemietz and seconded by Craig Konter. Motion Carried at 8:09pm.

Kari Pedersen

Deputy City Clerk