

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN
BOARD OF WATERWORKS COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
Monday, January 15, 2024

OPENING OF MEETING

President Van De Kreeke convened the meeting at 3:30 PM.

Present were Member Rich Dale and Superintendent Trueblood.

President Van De Kreeke and Secretary Howe were attending remotely.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

All present honored the flag of the United States.

MINUTES

2. Approve minutes of the Dec. 18, 2023 meeting

Commissioner Dale made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

3. Financial reports and approval of vouchers

Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dale, to approve the financial reports as presented and to approve general vouchers of \$5,099,514.74 and gross payroll of \$205,443.29. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Superintendent's report including operations, construction-maintenance, and customer relations/fiscal

Superintendent reviewed the supervisory departmental reports and noted Lead Service Line replacements had exceeded the goal for 2023 with a final figure of 206. Superintendent noted that, on the Raw Water Improvements project, several issues have come up that will affect the project completion. The first issue is delivery of 4 check valves that are installed downstream of each pump. These checks primarily serve to reduce water surges and to prevent water from coming back in on the pump from distribution. Unfortunately the fabrication of the check valves did not make it onto the vendor's schedule, and they are now slated for delivery in mid to late February. Although pumps could be operated without the checks in place, it has not yet been determined by the engineers if this will be allowable. Also, the contractor has not yet finished placing final cover on all of the intake pipeline. The final cover consists of the natural lake bedding that was removed during trenching. Although the pipe is in a trench and surrounded by stone, the lack of final cover might not allow activation of the pipeline out of the concern that the pipe might move if not fully covered. The contractor is waiting on weather windows to operate again on the Lake, but they need several days yet to complete the work. Superintendent noted that it is important to have a good project close-out even if that might require some delay, but the contract does include liquidated damages that must be taken into account. Superintendent also reported that an electrician had been injured by falling from a ladder, resulting in a broken leg bone. This accident is under investigation by the contractor.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. Approval of sodium hypochlorite tank rehab work

Superintendent reviewed a proposal from Fiberglass Solutions LLC regarding repairs to the liquid sodium hypochlorite tanks that were installed 24 years ago. Though the tanks remain in good condition, leaks have developed adjacent to fittings. Fiberglass Solutions proposed relining the tanks, installing replacement fittings, and installing a side access way for safe entry and ease of work. This rehabilitation would eliminate the need to replace the tanks for at least 7-10 years. The cost to rehab one tank is \$17,507.00 including all materials, labor, travel and expenses. Supervisor Swearingen proposes to do one tank per year. Commissioner Dale made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to approve the purchase as proposed. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of replacement filter rate of flow actuators

Superintendent reviewed a proposal for replacement filter rate of flow actuators for filters 8, 9, 10, and 11. The former two are at a cost of \$15,310 and the latter two are at \$19,745 or a grand total of \$35,055.00 from Dorner, including Auma actuators and all labor/startup. Superintendent noted that Auma units have provided more than 20 years of reliable service. Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dale, to approve the purchase. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Approval of R.O. transmitting 4th quarter report

Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dale, to submit the 2023 4th Quarter report to Council. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Update on water rate case

Superintendent reviewed a December 21, 2023 letter from WI PSC advising that they accepted the Board's request for a reduced rate of return at 6.0% rather than the benchmark of 6.8% specified by WI PSC. The reduced rate will somewhat ease the current rate increase. The PSC acknowledged the Utility's strong cash position and ongoing commitment to rate cases every two years until the Utility has adjusted to the new costs related to the monumental raw water improvements project. Superintendent advised that WI PSC is now completing its Cost of Service Study whereby the revenue requirement is allocated to the different rate categories. Superintendent anticipates having PSC's results for the February Board meeting. The Commissioners commended the effort to moderate the rate increase and the overall long term planning that has gone into the Raw Water Improvements project.

9. Review of ongoing health insurance costs

Superintendent reviewed figures from health insurance consultant Anthony Fioretti showing that overall health costs have been brought under control when it had become clear that the self-insured plan was untenable. Health costs stabilized at \$806,871 in 2023 compared to \$1,177,562 in 2022. Superintendent advised that Mr. Fioretti is retiring soon and his successor will be introduced to the Board later in the springtime.

PERSONNEL

NEXT MEETING

10. Next meeting will take place on: Feb. 19, 2024

ADJOURN

11. Motion to Adjourn

Commissioner Dale made a motion at 4:08 PM, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.