

# **Minutes of the Board of Water Commissioners' Meeting**

**Monday, February 21, 2011**

Present: Commissioners G. Van De Kreeke, R. Haen, A. Stewart, and J. Trueblood, Superintendent.

The meeting was called to order by G. Van De Kreeke, President, at 4:01 P.M.

## **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Motion by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Haen, that the minutes of the January 2011 meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Financial Reports**

Partial financial Reports for January 2011 were reviewed. Commissioner Haen motioned, with a second by Commissioner Van De Kreeke, that the financials be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Operations' Department Report**

Superintendent reported that January pumpage was flat compared with 2010. Staff had begun remodeling the old boiler room into more usable space for the meter shop. An intern from Moraine Park Tech College had begun time at the Utility. The Commissioners accepted the Operations Report as presented.

### **Construction Maintenance Department Report**

Superintendent advised the Board of 2 water main breaks repaired by the crew, including routine winter work. The Commissioners accepted the Operations Report as presented.

## **Old Business**

### **Old Business Presented By Commissioners**

There was none.

### **Other Old Business**

There was none.

## **New Business**

### **Business to be presented by Commissioners**

There was none.

### **Other New Business**

#### **Discuss and ask Board approval for purchase of replacement motor and VFD for Wilgus booster station**

Superintendent advised of the need to provide a redundant 60 hp pump at the Wilgus station, along with a variable drive to meet demands. Commissioner Haen made a motion to approve the purchase from L&S Electric at a turnkey cost of \$15,006, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Discuss and ask Board approval for reconditioning high lift pump #4**

Superintendent advised that high lift pump #4 has a mechanical seal that is leaking a significant amount of water. This type of mechanical assembly cannot be performed by Utility staff, as it requires specialized machine equipment. Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Haen, to accept the proposal from L&S Electric at a cost of \$9,540 to remove and recondition the pump. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss bids on high lift plaster ceiling stabilization

Superintendent reported on the ongoing effort with this project. Last year, the Utility completed new roofing over the high lift station. During this process, no additional plaster fell from the ceiling. The new roofing also appears to have eliminated water leakage that was a factor in causing plaster failure. The Utility ultimately packaged the project as a mixture of replacing failed plaster areas with dry wall and then stabilizing the entire plaster ceiling by screwing the plaster into the wooden framework. In addition, during the process, the Utility discovered the presence of old lead paint, some of which had flaked off and delaminated. So the removal of this paint and the application of an encapsulant on the remaining paint was added to the project, along with the removal of some remaining steam equipment with asbestos insulation. These additions caused a significant increase in the anticipated cost of the project. In the end, two contractors provided bids on the project: A. Chappa Construction LLC at \$171,300.00 and Mike Koenig Construction, Inc. at \$153,119.00. These bids significantly exceeded the Utility's budget amount. Commissioner Stewart asked if staff members routinely work in that area. Superintendent advised that operators typically pass through on the hour. At times, we might have staff working on a more time-consuming project in the high lift station. Commissioner Stewart asked if staff members wear hard hats in that area. Superintendent stated that hard hats are available to all staff members, and they were encouraged to wear them when we first became aware of the failing plaster, but the Utility has not enforced the policy as a requirement. Commissioners Haen related that, from his background in construction, the project is difficult due to due and limited floor space. The Utility had considered various options including the construction of an actual floor. The presence of lead paint is a complication. Some of the paint has flaked off the ceiling/walls and fallen on top of the drop ceiling currently in place. Staff members are aware that the paint is hazardous. Superintendent understands the hazard to be one of direct ingestion, such as if staff were to come into direct contact with paint chips. There is no process underway that would turn the paint flakes into small particulates or dust. So it appears the hazard is primarily restricted to work conducted above the drop ceiling where the paint flakes exist. Superintendent felt that an additional idea remains that could be worthy of investigation. A grid of steel cable could be attached to the masonry walls, just below the drop ceiling. This grid could be used to support a mesh/net structure placed taut below the drop ceiling. The purpose of this structure would be to catch any plaster that might fall through the drop ceiling in the future. In this way, the physical hazard could be greatly reduced, without the need for elevated work above the drop ceiling. While not inexpensive, the costs would certainly be far less than the low bid. Under this option, the lead paint would simply be left in place, with the drop ceiling serving as a direct barrier. Although a forced air furnace system now provides heat to the high lift station, this does not move air above the drop ceiling, nor should there be any other air flow between those spaces. So any lead paint flakes should remain where they are and be contained until a more economical removal solution is available. After further discussion, Commissioner Van de Kreeke motioned, seconded by Commissioner Haen, to table the construction bids. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss recommendation of Selective Insurance Company regarding claim of alleged water damage at 1537 Martin Avenue

Superintendent presented a letter from Selective Insurance Company regarding a claim filed by Anthony Olson alleging water damage at 1537 Martin Avenue. Superintendent confirmed the Utility had responded to a leak reported at that location and had promptly repaired a leaky fire hydrant lead. Earlier in the year, the Utility had informed Mr. Olson of a water leak on the private water service to 1537 Martin Avenue; the homeowner refused to repair the leak, which continued from at least July 2010 until November 2010, when the Utility repaired the leaky private service in the public interest due to the onset of cold weather. Superintendent reported the Utility had not been negligent in any of its activities. Commissioner Haen motioned, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to disallow the claim. Motion carried unanimously.

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Discuss recent incidences of frazil ice formation affecting water intake pipelines on Lake Michigan

Superintendent reported that frazil ice formation was a problem during the week of February 7. The Utility had several instances of ice clogging one (and possibly both) of its intake pipelines. Other neighboring utilities, including Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Manitowoc, also had problems with ice formation. Superintendent was advised of similar problems in the Chicago area. The Utility succeeded in engaging Seaview Diving and a local fisherman to dive on the 36" intake and provide further documentation of the ice build-up. Seaview did provide video documentation, although visibility was limited to about 1'. The Utility will continue to analyze the problem to further reduce its risk. There is some public perception that the Utility already constructed its new intake; this probably stems from the field work conducted with the platform out on the lake a few years ago. However, the project remains on the books due to funding limitations.

Discuss issue related to TIF funding of water mains at South Pier

Superintendent discussed various information from auditors and the WI Public Service Commission regarding this issue.

Discuss and ask Board approval for purchase of ductile iron pipe

Superintendent presented a tabulation of necessary 16", 12", 8", and 6" ductile iron pipe, along with polyethylene encasement material, for upcoming water main projects. Davies provided a price of \$40,575.80; HD Supply provided a price of \$46,416.00; First Supply provided a price of \$54,950.20. Commissioner Haen motioned, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to approve the low bid price. Motion passed unanimously.

**Correspondence**

Discuss email from Alderman Versey regarding fluoridation of municipal water

Superintendent reviewed an email response he had given to Alderman Versey, who received an inquiry from a constituent. The Utility has fluoridated municipal water since the 1950's. Recently the federal government has reduced the target concentration from 1.0-1.2 ppm to 0.7 ppm; this has resulted from ongoing studies on the most effective concentration of fluoride. In response, the Utility has reduced its feed rate to the new target. Many public health agencies continue to endorse fluoridation of municipal water, including the AMA, ADA, U.S. Center for Disease Control, State Medical Society of WI, and many others.

**Approve Vouchers**

Motion by Commissioner Haen, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, that the gross payroll of \$144,939.64 be allowed and ordered paid. Motion passed unanimously.

**Personnel**

Update Board on blizzard day

Superintendent advised that, on February 2, 2011, he had called a blizzard day and closed the Utility except for essential water production.

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Update Board on vacant operator position

Superintendent informed that Mr. Glen Paider had approached him regarding the vacant operator position, which had already been posted some weeks ago. After discussion, Superintendent determined that Mr. Paider had a serious interest in the position and decided to post it internally one more time. Mr. Paider was the only individual who signed the posting. Superintendent related that Mr. Paider had been an operator here in good standing prior to moving to a service technician position. He had also maintained his WDNR surface water certification. Superintendent recommended that Mr. Paider be considered qualified for the position, and, in accord with the labor agreement, be moved into the vacant position effective on 2/23/2011. Commissioner Van de Kreeke motioned, seconded by Commissioner Haen, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Other Matters**

There were no other matters discussed.

March Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be on Monday, March 21, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in the Utility conference room.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM on a motion by Commissioner Haen, seconded by Commissioner Van de Kreeke. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes taken by:  
Superintendent  
Joe R. Trueblood

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Raymond W. Haen, Secretary