



**CITY OF RIVER FALLS WISCONSIN
UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 18, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Utility Advisory Board Chair Patrick Richter at 6:30 p.m.

Utility Advisory Board Present: Scott Morrisette, Patrick Richter, Mark Spafford, Kellen Wells-Mangold and Mark Wespetal (virtually attended came at 6:35 p.m. and left at 7:10 p.m.)

Utility Advisory Board Absent: Tim Thum

Staff Present:

Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Electric Superintendent Wayne Siverling; Electric Journeyman Lineworker Luke Baumann; City Engineer Crystal Raleigh; Assistant City Engineer Todd Nickleski; Wastewater/Water Superintendent Ron Groth; Utility Administrative Assistant Lanae Nelson and IT Tech Assistant Jaden Barnes

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting Minutes: 08-16-2021

MSC Morrisette/Wells-Mangold approve minutes. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chair Richter opened the floor for comments.

Patrick Richter, 322 North 8th Street made a public comment regarding COVID-19.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Utility Director Westhuis congratulated Journeyman Lineworker Luke Baumann on his certification of passing in the top group of his Journeyman's class from Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC). He passed his 4-day test on April 16, 2021 and graduated from the 4-year Apprentice program to a Journeyman in September 2021. Westhuis presented Baumann with his certification card.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgment of the following minutes:

West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission: 07-22-2021 and 08-19-2021

MSC Morrisette/Spafford approve minutes. Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2021-09 - Authorizing the North Interceptor Sewer Extension and Kinnickinnic River Lift Station Elimination Construction to A-1 Excavating

Utility Director Kevin Westhuis introduced City Engineer Crystal Raleigh and Assistant City Engineer Todd Nickleski. Raleigh did a presentation regarding award of the construction contract for the North Interceptor Sewer Extension and Kinnickinnic River Lift Station Elimination to A-1 Excavating. She gave background details, needs of the project, the design process, bidding, mapping, and the construction process.

A-1 Excavating base bid is \$2,959,480.32. The bid proposal includes three segments of the base bid construction work, Alternate 1 and Alternate 2. The base bid includes construction from the downstream manhole to a point just north of Powell Avenue. Alternate 1 constructs the remaining sewer north of

Powell Avenue. Alternate 2 constructs a sewer down Powell Avenue to serve three residences that was agreed in easement negotiations in August 2019.

The board discussed the project details, location, and pricing. Spafford, Richter, and Raleigh spoke on road closures, customers affected, and material pricing.

Richter asked for approval of the resolution. As there was no further discussion, Richter asked for a vote. MS Wells-Mangold/Spafford moved to approve the resolution. The resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution 2021-10 – Authorizing Construction Engineering for North Interceptor Sewer Extension and Kinnickinnic River Lift Station Elimination to TKDA

Raleigh gave an overview on the authorizing award of the North Interceptor Construction Engineering Inspection Service to TKDA. She gave background details of TKDA was contracted to prepare construction plans, specifications, permit approval and bidding services for the North Interceptor Sewer Extension and Kinnickinnic River Lift Station Elimination. The project was put on hold in April 2020 due budget concerns due to the pandemic. Work resumed October 2020. The project was permitted to review agencies in late August 2021.

TKDA provided the City with a proposal for construction engineering services for the project. The proposal is an “Hourly Not to Exceed” contract specifying that billing will be on an hourly time and materials basis in amount not to exceed \$244,000.

The board discussed further on project details, construction cost and review agencies and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources heavily involvement in this approval process. Wells-Mangold, Morrissette, Raleigh and Westhuis discussed the work being done on off peak construction time, communication to customers affected and location of work is mostly in backyards versus streets.

MSC Wells-Mangold/Spafford moved to approve the resolution. As there was no further discussion, Richter asked for a vote. The resolution passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission Financial Assessment Update

Westhuis and Wastewater/Water Superintendent Ron Groth presented the City of River Falls Biosolids Facility Financial Analysis updated by Trilogy Consulting, LLC. They reviewed the purpose of the study with two options: Alternative 1-The City constructs its own biosolids handling facility and Alternative 2-The City renews its contract with West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility (WCWBF). Westhuis, Groth and Morrissette spoke on the two WCWBF Facilities Planning Meetings that happened in August and September.

There was further discussion from Groth, Westhuis and the board on both options. They reviewed the impacts in sewer processing, equipment and infrastructure, relationship with the WCWBF members, transportation costs, debt services, capital improvements, administration cost, staffing and operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses.

The analysis indicated that Alternative 2 is less cost effective than Alternative 1 and will result in the need to increase RFMU sewer rates. Alternative 2 could have a higher O&M cost for the City if WCWBF O&M expenses rise faster than 2% per year of if the share of costs charged to the City continues to increase.

Finance Report

Westhuis gave a brief overview of the 2021 nine months financial report that was included in the packet.

Utility Dashboards

The 2021 August and September utility dashboards were included in the packet.

Westhuis spoke on the City receiving national recognition from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) for the community's voluntary renewable energy efforts. RFMU customers rank third in the nation for Green Power Participation and fifth nationally for the community's Green Power Sales rate.

Morrisette commented on the customer participation in the Spring & Fall Cleanups and Electronic Recycling Event.

Richter reviewed the installation of his home's electric AMI meter. He thanked Electric Meter Technicians Vigil Johnson and Brian Hatch on their professional and customer service.

Monthly Report

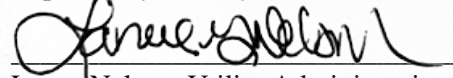
The 2021 August and September monthly utility reports were in the UAB packet for review.

ADJOURNMENT:

MSC Wells-Mangold/Spafford to adjourn. Unanimous.

UAB Chair Richter announced meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Reported by: Utility Administrative Assistant Lanae Nelson



Lanae Nelson, Utility Administrative Assistant