

## Minutes of the Oconto Utility Commission held on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

“Unapproved”

- 1.) Call meeting to order by President Schreiber at 5:00 p.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Members Present: Ron Filz, Earl Uhl, Al Schreiber, Brian Vandenlangenberg, & Steve VanCampenhout. Others Present: Jeremy Wusterbarth.
- 3.) Approval of agenda: **Motion by VanCampenhout second by Uhl to approve of the agenda as presented.** **5 ayes M/C**
- 4.) Approval of meeting minutes from 3/1/2021: **Motion by Filz second by VanCampenhout to approve of the meeting minutes from 3/1/2021 as presented.** **5 ayes M/C**
- 5.) Public Input: 1.) Jeremy explained that the 15 year old vactor on a machine at the WWTP was sent to Menominee Falls to McQueen, where we purchased it from, for major repairs. It is a machine that not many places will work on because of all the different moving parts. They estimated \$20,000 for the repairs, which included \$870 in labor. Jeremy spoke with Alex, our repair man, about doing some of the work in house. The estimate is now around \$9,000. Some things, like taking the center unit out with a hoist, we just can't do in house. 2.) Jeremy has been monitoring the daily flows. The river is down 2.5 feet, which is good. 3.) We recently met with the Sales Rep and Tech for the new meters, and we are working towards switching over. We should start receiving the new meters within the next month. 4.) We've been approved for monthly billing with PSC, and will start with monthly billing on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. We will soon be sending out notices to customers via the City's Facebook page and the newspaper. 5.) Shut offs, which have been put on hold by the PSC since March 2020, can resume starting April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 6.) Adam is off on vacation for a week. Ben Tommy is fully trained and running the plant while he is away.
- 6.) Correspondence:
  - a.) Monthly Report: Everything is good and ordinary.
  - b.) Septic Hauler Comparison: Jeremy looked into the rates that were set when he started working for the OUC. Our rates were way over what other places were charging for Septic Haulers. Jeremy compared them to the residential and township rates which were adjusted a few years ago. He adjusted the Septic Hauler rates to match what the Townships are paying. Going back to 2011, our income and number of Septic Haulers has dropped drastically. Which is because of two reasons: one being our high rates and second being more surrounding areas are accepting septic.
  - c.) WWTP Flows: Everything is good and ordinary.
  - d.) Electrical Costs: Everything is good and ordinary.
  - e.) Jones Ave Water Main Replacement Update: We are still working on the design for the water main replacement on Jones Ave. Close to being finished to be put out for bids. Aiming for the project to start in late Summer/early Fall. One thing we haven't decided yet for this project is if it is possible to work with Public Works Department and do curb, gutter, and driveway aprons at the same time, but with losing the million dollar grant on the causeway, along with Chicago Street that will be paid this year. We have to make sure we have enough funding. Either way the water replacement will be happening since we are under DNR order to get that cast iron inventory replaced. We only have a couple sections left to be finished in the entire City.
- 7.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:
  - a.) Approve invoice from Crane Engineering in the amount of \$3,230.10 for the repair of submersible pump in the scum pit: Jeremy explained this is a normal, expected pump repair. Funds will come out of the Equipment Replacement Fund. **Motion by Vandenlangenberg second by VanCampenhout**

**to approve invoice from Crane Engineering in the amount of \$3,230.10 for the repair of submersible pump in the scum pit. 5 ayes M/C**

- b.) Approve feasible study at WWTP from Ruekert/Mielke in the amount of \$29,700: Jeremy explained that they got bids from Robert E. Lee and Ruekert/Mielke. They liked the plan provided by Ruekert/Mielke engineers, and they had a better price as well. This study is required by the DNR. Once the study comes back, it will show us what the next upgrade at the plant should be. Last one was done in 2014. One is done around every 8 years. Jeremy is trying to work with the DNR to get them extended out a little further, especially for a healthy and well-functioning plant. **Motion by Uhl second by Filz to approve feasible study at WWTP from Ruekert/Mielke in the amount of \$29,700. 5 ayes M/C**

- 8.) Approval of Accounts Payable from January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 to April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the amount of \$222,903.31. **Motion by VanCampenhout second by Vandenlangenberg to approve Accounts Payable from January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 to April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the amount of \$222,903.31. 5 ayes M/C**

- 9.) Revenue & Expenditures Guidelines from 2021: Provide for informational purposes. No questions or comments were presented.

- 10.) Next Meeting Date & Time: Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If Jeremy doesn't have the water main bids by then, we will push the meeting off to June.

- 11.) Adjournment: **Motion by Uhl second by Vandenlangenberg to adjourn @ 5:20 p.m. 5 ayes M/C**

Meeting minutes submitted by: Brittney Bickel, Utility Clerk