

**Minutes of the Oconto Utility Commission Meeting
held on September 6th, 2023 in the City Hall Conference Room**

“Unapproved”

- 1.) Call meeting to order by Chairperson Vandenlangenberg @ 5:00 p.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Members Present: Ron Filz, Butch Mehlberg, Brian Vandenlangenberg, and Earl Uhl (@5:01 pm)
Also present: Utility Manager Matt Beekman, Mayor Panetti, Utility Clerk Megan Garrity, and City Administrator Brittney Burrue also as recording secretary
Members Excused: Steve VanCampenhout
- 3.) Approval of Agenda: **Motion by Mehlberg, second by Filz to approve of the agenda as presented. 3 ayes M/C**
- 4.) Approval of Meeting Minutes from 08/07/2023. **Motion by Mehlberg, second by Filz to approve of the minutes from 08/07/2023 as presented. 4 ayes M/C**
- 5.) Public Input: Mayor Panetti brought up the concern of PFAs. Beekman stated we discussed this at last month's meeting and the information is available in the minutes. The testing for PFAs in the ground water and private well samples came back with zero traces of PFAs. He and City Administrator Burrue spoke with the DNR and Wisconsin Rural Water Reps and it was highly recommended that we do not test wastewater until it is required as it is not yet regulated. Mayor Panetti stated that Eric Wimberger said PFAs are spreading and should test the discharge that septic hauler carriers are bringing in. Beekman stated we were told not to test as it is not yet regulated. Septic Hauler flows are minimal in the City of Oconto, approximately less than 3% of wastewater that we process. The Commission and Mayor discussed PFAs and it was unanimously decided it is best to wait to test until there are guidelines, regulations, and requirements in place.
- 6.) Correspondence:
 - a.) Electrical Costs: Everything is consistent and ordinary. Utility costs are rising.
 - b.) WWTP Flows: Everything is consistent and ordinary.
 - c.) Septic Hauler Comparison: Everything is consistent and ordinary.
 - d.) Monthly Report: No changes from last meeting. We are still in the process of installing new meters. Bug Tussle will be starting their project soon.
 - e.) Utility Installation Permit Fees: Bug Tussle: With the new permitting fee schedule we collected an additional \$8,200 (new schedule - \$11,635.70 vs old schedule - \$3,432) which will help cover our locating costs.
 - f.) Private Well Update: 37 permits are completed; 6 are in-process; and 15 we have not received contact from yet, a second letter will go in the mail this week; 32 are in the process of being abandoned.
 - g.) 2022 CMAR - DNR Response: The Oconto Utility has again received a 4.0/A grade on the DNR required Compliance Maintenance Annual Report.
- 7.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:
 - a.) Approval of invoice from Aqualis in the amount of \$9,455.50 for Manhole Rehabilitation: Beekman presented before and after photographs of the three manholes that were re-lined. Any infiltration is sealed up with epoxy. The deterioration of the concrete is caused by hydrogen sulfite gas that comes from the main. If we do not do anything the base will crumble, will eventually cause a collapse, and the cost for repair will be expensive and is timely. We will be budgeting money in future years to continue resurfacing all of our manholes as it extends their life and saves us money. Beekman will get price quotes for future projects. **Motion by Filz, second by Uhl to approve invoice from Aqualis in the amount of \$9,455.50 for Manhole Rehabilitation. 4 ayes M/C**

b.) Approval of invoice from Robert E. Lee in the amount of \$13,084.09 for WWTP Improvements.
Motion by Uhl, second by Mehlberg to approve invoice from Robert E. Lee in the amount of \$13,084.09 for WWTP Improvements. 4 ayes M/C

- 8.) **Closed Session** – Commission voted at 5:45 p.m. to convene into Closed Session pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) for the consideration of employment for the following items: Resignation of Utility Clerk. **Motion by Uhl, second by Filz to convene into closed session at 5:45 pm. 4 ayes M/C**

Roll Call: Members: Ron Filz, Butch Mehlberg, Brian Vandenlangenberg, and Earl Uhl; Others: Utility Manager Matt Beekman and Mayor Panetti.

- 9.) **Open Session** – Commission voted to reconvene into Open Session at 6:17 p.m. pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stat. 19.85(2) for discussion/recommendation from Closed Session.

Motion by Mehlberg, second by Uhl to hire Megan Garrity as the Utility Clerk at \$20.96/hour - \$1.00/hour more than current wage as Billing Clerk - full wage to be paid in 60 days. 4 ayes M/C

At the next meeting - the budget meeting - 2024 pay will be discussed to be at the average pay for Utility Clerks in comparable municipalities.

- 10.) Approval of Accounts Payable from August 1st, 2023 to August 30th, 2023 in the amount of \$101,919.34. **Motion by Filz, second by Uhl to approve of Accounts Payable from August 1st, 2023 to August 30th, 2023 in the amount of \$101,919.34. 4 ayes M/C**

- 11.) Revenue & Expenditures Guidelines from 2023: Everything looks good. Nothing to note.

- 12.) Next Meeting Date & Time: October 2nd, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

- 13.) Adjournment: **Motion by Mehlberg, second by Filz to adjourn @ 6:28 p.m. 4 ayes M/C**

Meeting minutes submitted by: Brittney M. Burrue, City Administrator