



405 2nd Avenue West
Halstad, MN 56548

Halstad Municipal Utilities Commission met 06/5/24 at 1:20 PM at the Utilities Office.

Commissioners President Tom Maroney, Ron Gotteberg, Darin Johnson

Staff- Lucas Spaeth- Superintendent and Secretary, Allison Tice

Additions to agenda –none

Approval of agenda – Motion Johnson, Second Gotteberg, M/C

Approval of minutes – Motion Gotteberg, Second Johnson, M/C

Check and credit card approval – Motion Gotteberg, Second Maroney, to approve monthly claims for March and April. M/C

Reviewed, Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet- Reviewed with Gotteberg discussing the need for rate adjustments soon to keep pace with the expenses that keep going up. Tice and Spaeth would look at all rates components. Maroney also asked to set some financial goals soon to help with the rate setting process and inflationary prices.

Water supply update given by Spaeth about the uses of different funds that West Central would utilize. The funding from the state of Minnesota was not passed leaving Norman County and Felton with Federal fund of \$1.75 Million each for the district. Staff will work to secure SCDP and USDA funding applications to help with the local costs of joining WCRWD. Spaeth added that the three Clay, Norman, and Polk counties would be appointing the first 9 member board in the coming weeks or months. Counties were split by population and would appoint 3 Clay, 2 Norman, and 4 Polk board members. County Commissioners appointed Commissioner Steve Jacobson and Lucas Spaeth as the first and terms will be laid out at an organizational meeting of the Water Authority.

Contract with Johnson Jetline for sewer maintenance and video inspections was fulfilled for 2024. Contractor was able to get through the cleaning of Northwest corner of town. The camera did not make it into one manhole 12 going north and manhole 11 going south. They video and reports will be important for future planning and assessments. Spaeth showed a model Sewer policy that was supplied by LMCIT. Staff would update policy and procedure to apply for insurance discount from LMCIT. Staff is working to apply for SEARCH grant for a PER on the wastewater collection and treatment.

Audit was presented by Tice and Commissioners acknowledged the audit and work time to prepare from staff.

Spaeth acknowledged the FireFrost ATV club approved and signed trail agreement with HMU for the shared property.

Spaeth updated the Commissioners of NMPA. The Agency held Annual meeting May 15th were Spaeth was elected President of NMPA Board and NMPA Liaison to the Minnkota Board of Directors. NMPA showed a positive financial year in 2023. NMPA will be doing some additional meetings and planning to help guide any transition that would include many factors. Naming WAPA rate base, Minnkota Power Sales Agreement, Coyote coal plant, Green House Gas Rule, Mercury Rules, Regional Haze Rule, Federal Funding opportunities, and misc. other items.

Commissioners were informed that the city had applied for Congressionally Directed Spending through Senators Klobuchar and Smith as well as Representative Fischbach. Fischbach's office did not carry the request but Smith and Klobuchar have moved it forward for the 3rd year.

Spaeth informed the Commissioners that the Well Head Protection Grant was satisfied and we are waiting for reimbursements. Also discussed an option for adding diesel generator backup at Well 2. Commissioners would like to wait on any investment into the backup for either well.

Report from M-RETS was presented by Spaeth for review and questions. The report is filed on behalf of the City for retiring the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for the WAPA hydro. The RECs report was done by Minnkota agreement and satisfies the Minnesota mandated requirements.

Spaeth updated on the gate valve exercising approved by Commissioners that staff will instead lease a machine from MRWA for \$800 for the week of July 29th.

Superintendent report Spaeth provided notes for the Commissioners for review. Highlighting that he would be working with staff on customer policies before we have metering upgrade projects. Policy changes will be presented at an upcoming meeting. Generator maintenance is scheduled for June 12th and we would be running our Annual URGE test in June. Meetings attended and upcoming training and meetings scheduled. Staff time has been split with some work for Halstad City and Borup additional contract. Perley spring discharge was completed in May.

Next regular council meeting June 10.

Next Regular Meeting Date – July 23 @ 1 PM

No other business to discuss.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Gotteberg, second Johnson. M/C

Meeting adjourned 3:30 PM

Secretary- Lucas Spaeth