

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KIMBERLY WATER COMMISSION

OCTOBER 27, 2009

Acting Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Members present for roll call were Commissioners Johnson, Stienen and Acting Chairman Strick. Absent and excused was Chairman Price. Also present was Superintendent Jerry Verstegen.

Commissioner Johnson moved, Stienen seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September Meeting as corrected. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Board.

The Commission discussed the water quality issue in the western part of the community. Supt. Verstegen informed the Commission that he has investigated the system, and the iron in the water as it leaves the pumphouses does not match the iron in the system. He is planning to aggressively flush the area later this week, and then directional flush from both directions next week. Based on historical issues with iron, many times it is a matter of more flushing and turning over water in the area. Residents will be notified by flyer, and asked not to use water for about four hours during this process.

The shell cleaning also releases a lot of iron into the system. He will investigate this process to make sure we are doing it correctly and at the right intervals. Backwashing could also be a partial cause, and is being looked at. It was further noted that the flow sites will be eliminated as the flushing will far exceed their benefit. Complaints are being logged, and will be reported to the Commission monthly.

The Commission reviewed the 2010 Operating Budget. Although we are applying for a water rate increase, Mr. Hermus prepared the budget based on the current rates as we are uncertain what the new rates will be, or when they will be approved. Administrator Hermus explained the large changes in revenues, being Industrial Water Sales and Interest Income. On the expenditure side, reduced chemical costs correlated to the reduced water sales. Other delivery costs are based on staff time allocations, and are not expected to change greatly. Benefits will be reduced substantially with one less employee (contract service). The funding left for capital projects based on this budget will only be about \$21,000. We are also reducing our reserves this year with the deficit budget, and will use any surplus next year (after the rate increase takes effect) to replenish the reserves. Part of the rate increase will reflect a large increase for capital projects as we are falling woefully behind.

The Commission also reviewed a rate comparison sheet printed from the WPSC Website. It shows that Kimberly is the second lowest for water rates in Outagamie County, almost 50% less than most of our neighbors. It was interesting information, and justifies our seeking the rate adjustment with the PSC.

The Commission tabled approval of the Budget until next month, as they would like to study the document more and discuss it a second time at the November Meeting prior to approval.

Commissioner Johnson moved, Stienen seconded the motion to table the 2010 Operating Budget until the November Meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commission reviewed the recommendation of Supt. Verstegen for weekend coverage and on call duty. Based on the current staff available between Kimberly and Little Chute (MCO) we will be using a four week rotation, Monday to Monday. After January 1st there will be a fifth member added as MCO is adding a position of Cross Connection Coordinator. All of the MCO time will be part of the existing contract. When Kimberly employees have weekend duty (which includes Little Chute), they will be paid as employees of MCO (for liability purposes). Overall, this proposal will greatly reduce the comp time of the Kimberly employees from about 43 days off to about 9 days off, per employee, per year. This will save over 500 man hours annually. There will also be a change in cell phone assignment to streamline this process. Although phones will be forwarded to the on call person, it will be transparent to the customers.

Supt. Verstegen shared the new monthly reports with the Commission. Daily operations, pumpage reports, chemical usage, dosage and effluents will all be charted and reported to the Commission monthly. Subordinate staff will be entering this data daily, with fluctuations being investigated by staff. There was one water break in September at Walnut and Third. All meter change outs are done, as is hydrant painting. Hydrant flushing is taking place this week and next. Staff is also developing a preventative maintenance program for all equipment. Staff is being trained to change oil on the pump motors, etc. Several efficiencies are being pursued as these take place.

Commissioner Stienen moved, Johnson seconded the motion to approve the bills and claims for the month of October as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Commission.

Commissioner Johnson moved, Stienen seconded the motion to approve the financial statements for the month of October as prepared. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Commission.

Commissioner Johnson moved, Stienen seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Commission.

Rick J. Hermus
Secretary