

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE KIMBERLY WATER COMMISSION**

**JANUARY 26, 2010**

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Members present for roll call were Commissioners Stienen, Strick and Chairman Price. Absent and excused was Commissioner Johnson. Also present was Superintendent Verstegen.

Commissioner Strick moved, Stienen seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2009 Meeting as prepared. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Commission.

Supt. Verstegen noted that only one complaint was received last month regarding water quality. The complaint was from the 300 block of Paul Drive. Iron tests have consistently been very good, with levels at or below .1 ppm (.3 is when iron becomes noticeable in the water supply). He will continue to monitor the weekly test results, and additional flushing will take place in the spring. He is optimistic that the levels will stay low between main flushing.

Administrator Hermus noted that the rate case filing is proceeding at the PSC. The second set of inquiries from case worker Bridgot Gysbers has been returned. An article will be placed in the Kimtalk informing residents of the potential 30% increase being suggested by the PSC. Included in the article will be the rate comparison, as Kimberly is currently the lowest in the Valley, and will still be one of the lowest even after the rate increase.

The Commissioner reviewed the proposed lease agreement with Open Range Communications, as amended on recommendation of Attorney Koehler, for the James Street Tower. The commission reviewed the proposed equipment for the tower and the agreement, including monthly rent of \$1,500, with 10% increases every five (5) years. Administrator Hermus noted this tower is located on Village property, thus leases are shared equally between the utility and the village. After some discussion, Commissioner Strick moved, Stienen seconded the motion to recommend approval of the lease agreement to the Kimberly Village Board. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Commission.

Supt. Verstegen reviewed a packet of information regarding the cross connection requirements of the Wisconsin DNR, and our policy for implementation. While we will be conducting residential cross connections, larger commercial and industrial will require a master plumber to conduct, including documentation for the utility to use for enforcement and verification with the PSC. Commercial and industrial will also need to be completed every two (2) years, whereas residential is every ten (10) years. Essentially, places like the Kimberly Mill and other highly specialized businesses we cannot handle. They will have to hire someone to conduct the inspections and complete the reports, which are then returned to the utility for implementation. There are also peripheral issues, such as toilet tank fixtures like one shared with the Commission that are sold at Menards but are against the current code. There was also discussion regarding the current policy, as the Commission voted to have the utility install backflow preventers in residential units requiring them. Two changes were called to their attention. First,

the utility personnel cannot install them as code requires a licensed plumber or the homeowner perform the task (even though it only involves screwing a device on the connections.) Also, the devices we originally intended to use are not sufficient. They need to be maintained each year by the property owner, or they freeze and break in the winter. After some discussion, Commissioner Strick moved, Stienen seconded the motion to amend the policy and change paragraph four, second sentence to read "... the utility shall supply and monitor installation of said backflow preventers on the appropriate devices." The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Commission. The utility will continue to supply up to three (3) backflow preventers for homes, even though the cost has increased three fold. It is estimated that the entire program, including backflow preventers and printing of documents (not including manpower) will be about \$2,650. It was agreed that supplying the fittings is cheaper than the time and effort to reschedule following up inspections and the paperwork to verify installation. Supt. Verstegen will present proposed ordinance language changes next month to clarify the commercial and industrial inspection process.

Supt. Verstegen reviewed his monthly report, including main and service breaks for the month. Also, the repairs made at the various pumphouses, including the chlorine line at Fulcer which we may have to have Lee's Welding repair. Most repairs are being done in house. There are some delivery concerns with the new salt contractor, Cargill. Trucks are having difficulties getting into pumphouses due to types of trucks. Supt. Verstegen is also considering expanding our salt bidding to include more utilities in the area to gain better pricing. He will make the contacts for this possibility.

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

Administrator Hermus noted that the financial statements are more positive, as the cash flow has stabilized in the last few months. With no capital projects anticipated until after the rate increase in July, the utility should be financially stable. Commissioner Strick moved, Stienen seconded the motion to approve the Financial Statements for the month of December and January as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commission discussed the possibility of purchasing logoed water bottles to help celebrate the Village's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Staff will investigate this possibility, including bottle types and costs. It was noted that only a better quality would be considered, as the last water bottles were lower quality and not well accepted.

Commissioner Strick moved, Stienen seconded the motion to adjourn into Closed Session per the posted Agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Commission.

Commissioner Strick moved, Stienen seconded the motion to reconvene into Open Session per the posted Agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Commission.

Commissioner Strick moved, Stienen seconded the motion to approve two days of comp time for Operator Gerrits for his extra effort during the absence of a Superintendent. The motion carried by majority vote of the Commission, with Chairman Price dissenting.

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

Rick J. Hermus  
Secretary