

February 17, 2026

President Debra Brown called the monthly meeting of the Eagle River Light, Water and WWTP Commission to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Dan Dumas, David Eibner, Walt Gander and Dan Grosskopf.

Others in attendance: Mike Sanborn, Cole Sanborn, Robin Ginner, Jesse Roberts and John Laszczkowski.

Motion by Walt Gander, second by Dan Grosskopf to approve the agenda. Carried.

Motion by Dan Dumas, second by Walt Gander to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Carried.

Motion by Walt Gander, second by Dan Grosskopf to approve payment of the accounts payable bills. Roll call vote: Gander, aye; Grosskopf, aye; Dumas, aye; Eibner, aye; Carried.

Motion by Dan Grosskopf, second by Walt Gander to approve January's electronic payments/manual checks. Roll call vote: Grosskopf, aye; Gander, aye; Dumas, aye; Eibner, aye; Carried.

President Debra Brown opened for comments on any correspondence included in the agenda package: No additional comments or discussion.

President Debra Brown opened for discussion of staff reports:

Jesse Roberts discussed customer incentive programs, conservation results and renewable program updates from WPPI.

John Laszczkowski briefly discussed financial activities from January. The electric utility had the greatest impact from 3 pay periods this month – it happens twice a year and without it the electric utility would have been at breakeven. The water utility had an increase in transmission/distribution expenses due to our labor costs to clear fire hydrants of snow. Sewer revenue increased by 12% from last January, which was due entirely to the recent rate increase. Our customer aging continues to be in really good shape and is consistent with last year. Our operating cash remains stable, and we currently have \$91,000 in our equipment reserve account. Our auditors completed their fieldwork last week and efficiencies gained from multiple years on this engagement with the City and Utility are now more evident. We will now work on completing the annual PSC report, which is due by May 1st, and we will discuss options for filing a full water rate case. Lastly, Mike & I will be focusing on the pending software conversion with Caselle. The training will be virtual and should be completed by the end of April.

Mike Sanborn discussed his operational report in additional detail, including further information on the current frost levels, recent freeze-ups, sewer collection maintenance options, and the DNR permit renewal for the WWTP.

Motion by Walt Gander and second by Dan Dumas to adjourn to Closed Session according to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 (1) (c); Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Roll call vote: Gander, aye; Dumas, aye; Grosskopf, aye; Eibner, aye. Carried.

- i. 6-month review of Jennifer Kennedy – Billing/Utility Clerk.

Motion by Dan Grosskopf and second by Walt Gander to return to open session to act on matters discussed in closed session if any action is needed. Roll call vote: Grosskopf, aye; Gander, aye; Eibner, aye; Dumas, aye. Carried.

Motion by Walt Gander and second by Dan Dumas to approve a wage increase of \$1.00 per hour for Jennifer Kennedy. Roll call vote: Gander, aye; Dumas, aye; Grosskopf, aye; Eibner, aye. Carried.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Issue.

Mike Sanborn provided information and led a lengthy discussion regarding the significant challenges in the time and costs now associated with looking for disposal sources for the buildup of our sludge. We will continue to research land options for long-term solutions to this issue. No further comments, discussion or action.

Forster Engineering – Electric Reliability 24.9KV System Loop Project.

After Mike Sanborn’s presentation and a group discussion regarding the vulnerability that exists on the City’s North Side, motion by Dan Dumas and second by David Eibner to approve up to \$25,000 with Forster Engineering to provide a study on the System Loop Project. Roll call vote: Dumas, aye; Eibner, aye; Grosskopf, aye; Gander, aye. Carried.

Motion by Dan Grosskopf, second by Walt Gander to adjourn at 2:00 P.M. Carried.

John Laszczkowski
Recording Secretary
