

Jan 21, 2025

Secretary Walt Gander called the monthly meeting of the Eagle River Light, Water and WWTP Commission to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Secretary Walt Gander opened for comments on any correspondence included in the agenda package: John mentioned that, per the loan covenants on the revenue bonds, the USDA actively reviews our rate structures and debt service coverage ratios for compliance. No additional comments or discussion.

Secretary Walt Gander opened for discussion of staff reports:

Jesse Roberts discussed Focus on Energy incentives and our contribution returns from utilization of existing programs. Further discussion on (HOMES) and (HEAR), two important new programs in Wisconsin that aim to help reduce energy usage for participating residents.

John Laszczkowski briefly discussed financial activities for the year-ended 2024. Our rate structures have allowed us to self-fund multiple utility improvements the last few years without increasing our debt level. On the electric side, we purchased transformers totaling \$213,000 this past year. On the water side, we have invested about \$250,000 over the last two years in implementing our water AMI system. On the accounts receivable side, our past due accounts are at a manageable level as we start the winter moratorium. We have noticed an annual pattern of crisis funds, from the State, being handed out as we start the disconnection process later in April. This has adversely affected normal partial payments, as customers anticipate/expect assistance if they get a 10-day disconnection notice with their April bills.

Mike Sanborn discussed his operational report in additional detail, including the recent water main break, the much-appreciated assistance from DPW and present frost levels. Mike also gave an update on the revised build/delivery of our new bucket truck. Which is now expected in the 4th quarter of 2025, instead of the 1st quarter of 2026.

Approval to dispose of old electrical equipment, switches, metering equipment, street lights, water heater controllers and other material & inventory no longer in use.

After a brief discussion a motion by Dan Grosskopf and second by Dan Dumas to approve disposal of old electrical equipment, switches, metering equipment, street lights, water heater controllers and other material & inventory no longer in use. Roll call vote: Grosskopf, aye; Dumas, aye; Hyslop, aye; Gander, aye. Carried.

Approval to provide a \$1,000 scholarship to a NPHS student seeking to attend an accredited Electrical Power Distribution Program at a Wisconsin Technical College.

After a brief discussion a motion by Dan Dumas and second by Dan Grosskopf to approve providing a \$1,000 scholarship to a NPHS student seeking to attend an accredited Electrical Power Distribution Program at a Wisconsin Technical College. Roll call vote: Dumas, aye; Grosskopf, aye; Hyslop, aye; Gander, aye. Carried.

Approval for Superior Electrical to upgrade the electrical equipment at Well #1 and Well #2 for \$21,750.

After a discussion regarding the age, reliability, maintenance challenges and overall concerns on the present controls for Well #1 and Well #2; motion by Dan Grosskopf and second by Dan Dumas to approve Superior Electrical making upgrades to the electrical equipment at Well #1 and Well #2 for \$21,750. Roll call vote: Grosskopf, aye; Dumas, aye; Hyslop, aye; Gander, aye. Carried.

Approval to have Municipal Well & Pump install VFD Drives and associated equipment at Well #1 and Well #2 for a cost not to exceed \$29,800.

After a discussion a motion by Dan Grosskopf and second by Dan Dumas to approve Municipal Well & Pump installing VFD Drives and associated equipment at Well #1 and Well #2 for a cost not to exceed \$29,800. Roll call vote: Grosskopf, aye; Dumas, aye; Hyslop, aye; Gander, aye. Carried.

Approval to have Municipal Well & Pump upgrade the gate valves, check valves and other associated upgrades at Well #1 and Well #2 for \$17,200.

After a discussion a motion by Dan Dumas and second by Dan Grosskopf to approve Municipal Well & Pump upgrading the gate valves, check valves and other associated upgrades at Well #1 and Well #2 for \$17,200. Roll call vote: Dumas, aye; Grosskopf, aye; Hyslop, aye; Gander, aye. Carried.

Approval to purchase variable speed chlorine chemical pumps for Well #2 and Well #3 from Hawkins for \$2,873.88 each, totaling \$5,747.76.

After a discussion regarding kit costs; a motion by Dan Dumas and second by Dan Grosskopf to approve purchase of variable speed chlorine chemical pumps for Well #2 and Well #3 from Hawkins for a total cost not to exceed \$7,000. Roll call vote: Dumas, aye; Grosskopf, aye; Hyslop, aye; Gander, aye. Carried.

Approval to seek financing options for all approved utility projects scheduled for 2025.

After a discussion regarding debt structure, costs and interest rates available through Baird; a motion by Dan Grosskopf and second by Dan Dumas to pursue financing options for all approved utility projects scheduled for 2025. Roll call vote: Grosskopf, aye; Dumas, aye; Hyslop, aye; Gander, aye. Carried.

Motion by Dan Grosskopf, second by Dan Dumas to adjourn at 2:05 P.M. Carried.

John Laszczkowski
Recording Secretary
