

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**RIVER FALLS UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**May 16, 2016 6:30 p.m.**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**

The Regular Meeting of the River Falls Utility Advisory Board was called to order by President Hanson at 6:30 p.m. Present: Kevin Swanson, Patrick Richter, Tim Thum, Grant Hanson, Duane Pederson, and Adam Myszewski. Absent: Diane Odeen. Staff present: Kevin Westhuis, Utility Director; Kristi Hartmon, Administrative Assistant; Julie Bergstrom, Finance Director; Ray French, Management Analyst; Ron Groth, Water/Waste Water Superintendent.

**M/S Pederson/Myszewski to approve minutes of the April 18, 2016 Regular Meeting. Motion Carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Utility Director Kevin Westhuis welcomed and introduced two new Utility Advisory Board Members Kevin Swanson and Patrick Richter appointed by Mayor Toland.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Acknowledgment of the following minutes:  
West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission Meeting – 04-19-16  
POWERful Choices Committee – 4-14-16

**M/S Thum/Myszewski to approve Consent Agenda. Motion Carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2. Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) was included in the packets and showed the water quality in the City of River Falls meets all state and federal standards. Utility Director Westhuis noted that there was one incident last month on April 21<sup>st</sup> at well #4 an employee inadvertently left a fluoride pump on for 24 hours before it was discovered. It was corrected on the morning of April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Twelve tests conducted and one initial sample did come back that indicated our water quality surpassed the Maximum Contaminant Level for fluoride. The level was 6.52 parts per million. A subsequent test at this same location resulted in a fluoride level of 2.0 parts per million. This is a level in compliance with DNR regulations. Residents were notified immediately in person and by letter left at their residence by Kevin Westhuis and Ron Groth. This was on a dead end street about a block from well #4. Corrections have been made so this will not happen again with the manual fluoride injection at that well. Board Member Hanson asked what the solution was to not have this happen again. Water Superintendent Groth explained on the chemical feed pump there is a switch that could be run manually independent of the well pump operating. Staff is removing the hand feature so the only way to have those hand chemical feed pumps to run is with the well pump actually running.

Board Member Hanson asked about lead pipes in the system and is there any way of controlling them with short of replacing all the pipes. Westhuis stated River Falls is fortunate that they are (after talking to senior water operators) not aware of any lead pipes in the system. There are a few (10 to 20) lead goosenecks in our system that may feed a service. Testing is low for lead in River Falls.

3. Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code Regarding Utilities. Management Analyst Ray French reported on the proposed updates to this Ordinance. After going through the code and after the Utility and City were reorganized in 2012, there were several outdated references to the utility administrator/general manager and utilities commission that are no longer applicable. Hanson commented that this is bringing everything up-to-date because the old language that is no longer appropriate. French confirmed that was correct.

**REPORTS:**

4. Finance Report: Finance Director Bergstrom gave a brief overview of the finance report for April. Bergstrom gave a couple of highlights. The electric sales revenue is down as well as the power bill with net income of \$188,906. The sewer fund had a positive balance and some of that is because of the reduction of the cost of the biosolids facility (paid off debt last year). The water fund is negative year-to-date and rate increases are to be expected to take effect July 1. Bergstrom expects water to turn around by the end of the year with the new rates.

The auditors are done and have a draft audit. Staff was able to review the costs for the hydro operation. They calculate how much the hydro system provides the city in revenue and how much it is costing the city. At the end of 2015 the net revenues for that operation was at about \$56,000.

5. Utility Dashboards for, Electric, Water, Waste water and Powerful Choices were included in the UAB Packets. These dashboards are also located on the City website at [www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org). Discussion on Renewable Energy Green Block sales and that RFMU is 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State for customer participation. The goal of the city is to have 10 percent of customers participate in the \$3/mo. green block program.
6. Monthly Utility Report was included in the UAB packets for review. Westhuis stated that progress is being made with the construction at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Board Member Thum asked how the work was progressing on the water tower painting. Westhuis stated that all the telecoms have been relocated off the tower, finishing up welding, and then painting company will come in late June. There are a couple of interns that started in the water and wastewater departments for the summer. River Falls Municipal Utilities earned the 2016 Award of Continued Excellence from the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Demonstration of Energy and Efficiency Developments (DEED) program.

Utility Director Westhuis presented Wayne Beebe a plaque for his 15 years of dedication and serving as a Utility Advisory Board member from April 2001 to April 2016.

Westhuis asked for a special meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> for agenda item on directional boring along Radio Road. Electric Superintendent Siverling would like to get started with the project as soon as possible and would like it to get to City Council by their next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**M/S Pederson/Myszewski moved to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Unanimous.**