

**REGULAR MEETING
RIVER FALLS UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
June 20, 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, Diane Odeen, Tim Thum, Grant Hanson, Duane Pederson, and Adam Myszewski. Staff present: Kevin Westhuis, Utility Director; Kristi Hartmon, Administrative Assistant; Julie Bergstrom, Finance Director; Ron Groth, Water/Wastewater Superintendent. Other: Chris Gagne, City Council

M/S Odeen/Pederson to approve minutes of the May 16, 2016 Regular Meeting and the June 6, 2016 Special Meeting. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Acknowledgment of the following minutes:
West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission Meeting – 05-17-16

M/S Odeen/Swanson to approve Consent Agenda. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. 2015 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR): Ron Groth, Water/Wastewater Superintendent gave a brief explanation of what the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) is. It is a DNR required report card for the collect system and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

M/S Pederson/Odeen to approve Resolution No. 2016-10 regarding review of Wastewater Treatment Plant 2015 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report.

3. Proposed CIP: Utility Director Westhuis stated that this is a review of the projects proposed for the 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan. Westhuis stated before any changes are made to the department requests, he would like to receive input and discussion from the Utility Advisory Board.

There was discussion on the AMI meter project. Thum asked for clarification on the ranking system of the priority list (4, 2, n/a) on the CIP document. Westhuis confirmed that a 4 is a higher ranking/priority than a 2. Pederson asked what the normal change out of meters is and has it been considered to use the new style meter (AMI) that is on the CIP when meters are due for change outs. Westhuis said it is a 12 year rotation on meters and it has been considered to use the AMI meters for future meter change outs.

Thum stated that he understands the pilot project that was done for the large top 30 Industrial customers, but \$750,000 a year for a couple of years that is a lot of money for purchase of AMI meters for residential accounts. Thum asked is the AMI meters need to be replaced on a 12 year rotation. Westhuis was not sure and stated that is a good question and technology is changing every day. Thum stated new technology needs to be of value to warrant the expense and it sounds like the current meter reading process are not that expensive. Thum would like to see more information on why the AMI would be valuable to (especially for residential)

customers. Odeen stated that as a point of reference, this portion of the CIP is part of a bigger CIP plan that the City Council has already had one workshop on and will have another workshop on July 26th and UAB members are welcome to come and talk about any of the projects at that time. Westhuis thanked the board for their comments and told them to reach out to him if they would like to discuss further. Hanson asked what the budget item for maintenance was on the tree trimming item on the CIP. Westhuis stated that the tree trimming is contracted out and not done by internal staff right now.

4. Election of UAB Officers (President and Secretary): Pederson moved to elect Grant Hanson as President. Myszewski seconded the motion. Motion passed. Odeen made a motion to elect Duane Pederson as Secretary. Thum seconded the motion. Motion passed.

REPORTS:

4. Finance Report: Financial reports were included in the packet for review. President Hanson noted that the water utility had a cumulative negative income at the end of May. Westhuis stated that is one of the reasons for the water rate increase.
5. Utility Dashboards for, Electric, Water, Waste water and Powerful Choices were included in the UAB Packets. Odeen asked if there were metrics to see how many people look at them as staff spends time on them and wants to make sure people find them useful. Administrative Assistant Hartmon stated she could look at the analytics of the utility website.
6. Monthly Utility Report was included in the UAB packets for review. Ron Groth reported that the basement floor was poured on WWTP building and the project is scheduled to be substantially complete and operable by October 2016. Sycamore Water Tower project has started and is going as scheduled and will be complete by the first of August. Hanson asked if the WWTP project will handle the population trends a number of years down the road. Groth stated when you redesign a WWTP you look at the next 20 years and estimate what the population would be. Westhuis stated that we have a 1.8M gallon per day facility and we are at about 1.2M gallons per day. We have room for expansion.

Thum asked if there was anything new from Pioneer Metal. Westhuis stated that he thinks it is 95% dead and Pioneer let the city know they are exploring other options at this time. Pederson asked about the solar panel issue. Kevin stated that he met with three neighbors that live across the street from the panels and also about 21 neighbors from Sterling Ponds neighborhood who had a few different issues as well. It was a good meeting and Westhuis is following up on a few items for them. Westhuis agreed on getting one or two more estimates on removing the row of panels and is also working on landscaping plans. Westhuis continues to work on a resolution. Hanson asked about the weatherization program and working with eligible homes. Noreen is working with eligible customers on that program and taking applications.

ADJOURNMENT:

M/S Thum/Myszewski moved to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Unanimous.

Reported by: Kristi Hartmon, Administrative Assistant