



**CITY OF RIVER FALLS WISCONSIN
UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
May 20, 2019**

The regular meeting of the River Falls Utility Advisory Boards was called to order by Utility Advisory Board Chair Adam Myszewski at 6:30 p.m.

Utility Advisory Board Present: Adam Myszewski, Scott Morrissette, Kevin Swanson, Mark Spafford, Tim Thum and Kellen Wells-Mangold

Utility Advisory Board Absent: Patrick Richter

Staff Present: Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Utility Administrative Assistant Lanae Nelson; Wastewater/Water Superintendent Ron Groth; Electric Operations Superintendent Wayne Siverling and Electric Journeyman Lineworker Logan Snyder

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting Minutes: 04-15-2019

MSC Thum/ Swanson approve minutes. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Myszewski opened the floor for comments. Utility Director Westhuis welcomed newly appointed City Council representative Alderperson At Large Scott Morrissette to the UAB. He replaces Alderperson At Large Diane Odeen on the Utility Advisory Board.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgment of the following minutes:

West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission: 03-21-2019

MSC Morrissette/Swanson approve minutes. Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2019-05 – Endorsing State Legislative Action on Wastewater Sludge Hauling

Westhuis introduced Wastewater/Water Superintendent Ron Groth as the presenter. Groth reviewed the need to support West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility (WCWBF) in pursuing legislative action regarding overweight permits for hauling biosolids waste truck loads. The WCWBF was formed in 1996 by eleven-member communities, which RFMU was one of the founding members. The WCWBF is the regional biosolids waste processing facility and it is run by 3 employees. The biosolids waste that is taken from the RFMU Wastewater Facility and the other eleven-member communities to be processed at WCWBF is transported from the truck hauling independent contractor, Porcupine Trucking.

On January 7, 2019 a truck hauling biosolids to WCWBF was pulled over by a Wisconsin State Trooper who asked for information on the contents that were being hauled. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) initially told WCWBF that the current hauling permit would be valid for hauling the sludge as “recyclable scrap” to WCWBF. Then the WDOT determined that the centrate hauled out of WCWBF did not qualify for the permit and the sludge being hauled into the facility no longer qualifies either under the permit. The Wisconsin state law loads were reduced to 6,000 gallons coming and leaving WCWBF. Groth and Westhuis explained WCWBF has begun seeking legislative solution on needing a change in Wisconsin statute for this overweight permit.

WCWBF has retained Attorney Lawrie Kobza of Boardman Clark, a registered lobbyist. Kobza is arraigning meeting with local Representative Rob Stafsholt and Representative Shannon Zimmerman on discussion of adding a new subsection to Chapter 348.27 to allow multi-trip permits in excess of the statutory weight and size limit for the transportation of wastewater materials on the state roads.

WDOT allows trucks hauling sludge a gross vehicle weight rating of 97,000 pounds, which allows hauling up to 8,000-gallon loads. WCWBF was granted an overweight load permit from WDOT for 100,000 pounds, the permit was issued under s.348.27(9r) and s.348.27(12), Wis. Stats that allow for transport of garbage, refuse, and recyclable scrap in excess of statutory weight and size limits.

The WDOT ruling to rescind the overweight permit to haul will create a drastic impact with anticipated reduction in gallons per load hauled and will result in a 35 percent increase in hauling cost. Current hauling rates for RFMU is \$.03236 per gallon and this will increase to \$.04369 per gallon, which will be an increase of approximately of \$33,000 based on 2018 numbers. The eleven-member communities of WCWBF will have a yearly increase of roughly \$197,000.

Groth recommend to the UAB to recommend to Council to support the legislative action to make an exemption and modify section 348.27 of the Wisconsin Statutes to challenge WDOT permit ruling and to have WCWBF pursue legislative modify the current state law. The UAB had discussion with Groth and Westhuis the safety, weight limits and cost of hauling the biosolids waste.

MS Morrissette/Spafford move to approve the resolution. As there was no further discussion, Myszewski asked for a vote. It passed 5-1 with Myszewski, Morrissette, Spafford, Thum and Wells-Mangold in favor and Swanson voting against.

REPORTS:

Biosolids Sludge Hauling Report

Groth had reviewed the Biosolids Sludge Hauling Report in the resolution during New Business.

Finance Report

Westhuis gave a brief overview of the finance report. Westhuis clarified under the Electric Fund that the Economic Development position budget in the report hasn't happened yet, it is in discussion right now. Looking at having it be budgeted 50/50 from the Electric fund and the General fund.

Utility Dashboards

The 2019 April utility dashboards of Electric, Water, Wastewater Treatment Plan and POWERful Choices! were included in the UAB packet for review.

Monthly Utility Report

The 2019 April monthly utility reports were in the UAB packet for review. Westhuis thanked the Utility Department employees in Electric, Water and Wastewater who are knowledgeable, helpful, intelligent and great to work with. They all do a great job, work hard and RFMU is very fortunate to have this team of employees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Westhuis shared a thank you from RFMU customer, Paul Bubak (River Ridge road) who had a power outage this past week. Bubak called Westhuis to express his appreciation of the great customer service and job of restoring his power from Snyder and Journeyman Lineworker Apprentice Luke Baumann.

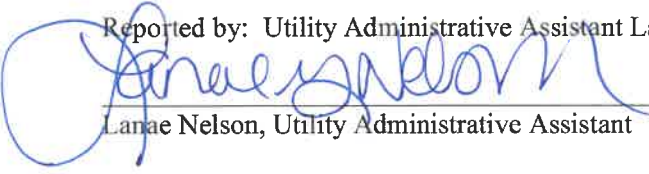
Westhuis congratulated Journeyman Linework Logan Snyder on his certification of passing top of his Journeyman's class from Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC). He passed his 4-day test on March 22 and graduated from the 4-year Apprentice program to a Journeyman Lineworker in April 2019. Westhuis and Electric Operations Superintendent Wayne Siverling presented Snyder his certification.

ADJOURNMENT:

MSC Swanson/Morrisette to adjourn. Unanimous.

Myszewski announced meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Reported by: Utility Administrative Assistant Lanae Nelson



Lanae Nelson, Utility Administrative Assistant