

**OCONTO FALLS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**  
**WATER & LIGHT ● SEWAGE DISPOSAL ● CABLE TELEVISION**  
**MINUTES OF MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities Commissions was called to order in Council Chambers of the Oconto Falls Municipal Building, 500 North Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin, by President Kardoskee at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Patenaude, Anastasopoulos, Vowinkel, Coopman, and Kardoskee, present.

Also Present: Utility Manager Greg Kuhn, Mayor Brad Rice, Customer Service Representative Beth Rank, Taryn Nall of Ruckert-Mielke, Inc., and Beth Julius.

**MINUTES:**

President Kardoskee asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Monday, February 19, 2018 and the Public Informational Meeting of Monday, March 12, 2018. Hearing none, President Kardoskee declared the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Monday, February 19, 2018 and the Public Informational Meeting of Monday, March 12, 2018 of the Oconto Falls Water & Light Commission accepted as presented.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** December 2017 (amended) and January 2018 (pre-audit)

The Treasurer's Report for the months of December 2017 (amended) and January 2018 (pre-audit) as prepared by Deputy Treasurer Eve Wallace was placed on file for future audit.

**BILLS:** It was moved by Anastasopoulos, seconded by Vowinkel, that an order be drawn authorizing payment of payroll vouchers 102792-102807, accounts payable vouchers 024098-024151, and wire transfers 001144-001152. Roll call: Anastasopoulos, Vowinkel, Coopman, Patenaude, and Kardoskee, voting aye. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS AND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSIONS** None

**CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION:**

A thank you card was presented to the Commission from Kingdom Come Pantry.

**MANAGEMENT REPORTS:**

**Manager's Report**– Greg Kuhn provided and commented on his written report.

Kuhn commented that he talked to the property owner at 195 W Highland Dr. about putting in a backflow preventer.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant is having problems losing power. The main power control panel connecting point needs repair.

The Ridge Road project will start in May.

**OLD BUSINESS**

COMMON

**SCADA Improvements (Fiber Network)** – Kuhn presented a verbal quote from Packerland for the installation of a fiber line to all of the utility locations and across the river in the amount of \$21,000. Anastasopoulos questioned why the SCADA system couldn't run on the cable line. Kuhn replied that the SCADA system needed its own dedicated line. Kuhn asked if the Commission would entertain the installation of a fiber line so that he could determine which direction the SCADA improvement would go. Kuhn said that the fiber line is the way to go because it will be instantaneous for providing information on what is occurring at each utility location. If the fiber line was installed, there would not be a need for an antenna at the top of the water tower. The price quoted on the SCADA system would possibly decrease because of this. Kuhn also stated that the cost of running the fiber line could be paid by the cable utility. Commissioners made a consensus that the utility should install a fiber line for the SCADA improvements.

**Adams Street Update** – There will be a meeting this week or next week to finalize items with bids going out March 28, 2018 and bid opening April 11, 2018. The utility plans to eliminate a man hole and to clean up piping outside Well 3 during this project.

WASTEWATER

**Sewer Rate Case** – Taryn Nall presented the updated sewer rate case to the Commission. Nall left the fixed charge roughly the same as it currently is; the fixed charge would increase \$0.35/month for ¾" sewer meters. The proposed rate case would increase residential bills by approximately \$4.00/month. It was moved by Coopman, seconded by

Patenaude to publish the sewer rates as presented for a public meeting at 6:00 pm on Monday, April 16, 2018 with the Commission meeting following and to include a notice of sewer rate increase in the next utility bill and on the Utility website. Roll call: Coopman, Patenaude, Vowinkel, Anastasopoulos, and Kardoskee, voting aye. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### COMMON

**WPPI Energy Funds – Memorial Day Fireworks** – A summary of all WPPI Energy Funds was provided to the Commission. It was moved by Vowinkel, seconded by Patenaude, that we donate \$500 for Memorial Day Firework to be paid with WPPI Commitment to Community funds. Roll call: Vowinkel, Patenaude, Coopman, Anastasopoulos, and Kardoskee, voting aye. Motion carried.

**Hiring of Part-time Summer Employees** – Kuhn stated with the loss of the full-time water operator, the Utility would like to hire a part-time employee for the summer. Kuhn would like to hire an engineering student, offering them up to \$15.00/hour based on their experience. The summer employee would be turning valve boxes, entering information into GIS, lawn mowing, and hydrant painting, along with a variety of other duties as needed. It was moved by Patenaude, seconded by Anastasopoulos to turn over the hiring of a part-time summer employee to Utility Manager, Greg Kuhn, with the ability to pay up to \$15.00/hour based on qualifications. Roll call: Patenaude, Anastasopoulos, Coopman, Vowinkel, and Kardoskee, voting aye. Motion carried.

### ELECTRIC

**Ridge Road Rebuild** – Kuhn informed CenturyLink that the Utility will be burying their lines and removing the utility poles. CenturyLink asked Kuhn to ask the Commission if the Commission would allow CenturyLink to purchase the utility poles so that CenturyLink could keep their lines above ground. It was moved by Coopman, seconded by Vowinkel to deny the request from CenturyLink to purchase the utility poles on Ridge Road. Motion carried by voice vote.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rank

Customer Service Representative