

**City of Stevens Point
Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners
January 9, 2023 - 12:00 PM
Stevens Point Public Utilities
300 Bliss Avenue, Stevens Point, WI**

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

Meeting URL to connect: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82026885705>

Dial in number: (303) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 820 26885705

MINUTES

Discussion and Possible Action on:

1. Roll Call.

PRESENT: Paul Adamski, Carl Rasmussen, Mae Nachman, Ray Schmidt and Anna Haines

ALSO PRESENT: Joel Lemke, Mary Klesmith, Craig Czaikowski, Chris Lefebvre, Eric Southworth, Jason Draheim and Jaime Zdroik

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Ray Schmidt, seconded by Carl Rasmussen to approve the November 14, 2022 meeting minutes of the Board of Water & Sewerage Commission.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Department Claims

Motion made by Carl Rasmussen, seconded by Mae Nachman to approve the department claims for the months of November and December 2022 as audited and read.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

4. Rate adjustments for Water, Sewer and Storm Utilities - Joel Lemke

Joel summarized the memo written to the Commission that was included in the packet. Joel stated that due to high inflation, our costs have increased. As discussed in prior years, smaller, more frequent increases are the preferred approach for increasing rates. Joel explained there are two different approaches that can be used to adjust rates on the Water Department side of things. One is a standard rate case. This process takes months to complete, starting with hiring someone to put the financial information together, then it is given to the Public Service Commission which reviews the information and tells you what the rate should be based on your current needs and the rate of return needed. The other approach is called a simplified rate case. The PSC is currently providing an increase of 4.5%. Joel is proposing the same increase of 4.5% for the Wastewater Utility.

The Stormwater Utility, because this utility has a smaller rate base and large recent projects, needs a larger adjustment to accommodate those projects and to account for the last debt issuance. Over the next two years, we will need to account for an increase of approximately 22% to maintain the needed revenue in that utility. This year we are proposing half of that amount, 11%.

An average single family household uses 2,500 cubic feet of water in a quarter. Their bill at the current rates would be \$236.49, with the proposed rates it would be \$248.34 an increase of \$11.85.

The Department is requesting permission to submit a Simplified Rate Case to the PSC and implement 4.5% rate increase for the Water and Wastewater Utilities and 11% for the Stormwater utility.

Motion made by Ray Schmidt, seconded by Carl Rasmussen to approve submitting a Simplified Rate Case to the PSC and implement a 4.5% increase for the Water and Wastewater Utilities and 11% for the Stormwater Utility.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

5. Renewal of Izaak Walton League agreement - Joel Lemke

Motion made by Carl Rasmussen, seconded by Mae Nachman to approve the renewal of the Izaak Walton League agreement.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

6. Water Supply and Distribution Reports - Eric Southworth

Eric stated the water towers need to be inspected every 5 years. The Water Street tower and the Well 11 tanks will be cleaned and inspected along with the collector well lines as well.

Operation Deep Freeze will be starting sometime within the next couple of weeks.

Eric will provide the Commission a report showing residential consumption verses the industrial or commercial properties.

7. Sewage Treatment Operations Report - Chris Lefebvre

Chris stated everything has been going well the last two months. Permit requirements were met in the last two months. The biogas treatment skid is back operational. We save approximately \$9,000 - \$10,000 monthly by using biogas.

8. Construction and Maintenance Report - Craig Czaikowski

Craig stated we are in the process of winter operations, checking hydrants to make sure they are not frozen etc. The new vac truck was received. They are working on the final touches determining the equipment they would like on it. The crew has been plowing and performing maintenance on equipment/trucks.

9. Community Area Network Report - Joel Lemke

Joel stated infrastructure is in the ground in regards to the recent project involving the Police, the Parks Dept and the Plover Water Utility/Rural Water. Things are going well.

10. Directors Report - Joel Lemke

Capital Operations & Maintenance will be brought to the Commission for approval in February. There are a couple things being discussed tonight at the Finance meeting involving the projects and assessments. Joel is also waiting for the 2023 projects to be fully designed.

Joel stated there will be discussion on a proposed Transportation Utility and extra revenue possibilities for the City at tonight's Finance meeting. The Transportation Utility would involve us because it would be another utility included on our quarterly bill. Paul Adamski is not happy with the possibility of the new Transportation Utility being on our quarterly bills because our Commission would look like the decision makers on this new utility when they weren't even consulted. Joel briefly summarized how the Transportation Utility would be billed.

11. Adjournment.

Motion made by Ray Schmidt to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:37PM