

**City of Stevens Point
Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners
January 8, 2024 - 12:00 PM**

**Stevens Point Public Utilities
300 Bliss Avenue, Stevens Point, WI**

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

Meeting ID: | 820 26885705

By Computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82026885705>

By Phone: (303) 715-8592

MINUTES

Discussion and Possible Action on:

1. Roll Call.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Joel Lemke, Mary Klesmith, Shane Kohnen, Chris Lefebvre, Eric Southworth, Jason Draheim, Ald. Shuda, Ald. Lang, and Marissa Loew.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Carl Rasmussen, seconded by Anna Haines to approve the December 11, 2023, meeting minutes of the Board of Water & Sewerage Commission.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Department Claims

Carl Rasmussen asked what caused the lateral break in water claims for check number 58537. He asked if it was weather related or something else.

Shane Kohnen explained that it was the water service for Dairy Queen and the break was under highway 10. He said the best way to fix the lateral was to bore in a new service. Shane said it was not weather-related.

Joel Lemke explained that there was a trenchless installation of water service and repair of sanitary sewer lateral under the two westbound, north lanes of the highway. He said if they had to excavate the road, the cost would have been much higher due to the amount of concrete needed. Joel said they let the County know of the issue and this area will be watched.

Ray Schmidt asked if the repairs in account 58510 are related to check number 58537.

Joel Lemke said yes, it is the cost associated with the trenchless lining of the sewer repair.

Anna Haines asked how we found out about this issue.

Shane Kohnen explained that Dairy Queen had low water pressure.

Ray Schmidt asked about water account 58515; water pipeline lease.

Joel Lemke explained that anytime we cross a railroad, it is a leased crossing that meets CN's standards. He said we pay every year for being there.

Carl Rasmussen asked if sewer account 58486 was part of a capital project.

Joel Lemke explained that it was part of the repair of the bio solids dryer insurance claims.

Paul Adamski asked if the mold remediation in sewer account 58557 was in general or a specific area.

Chris Lefebvre explained that mold was in their water lab due to a drain failure that dumped water behind their cabinets that was not noticed until water started coming out under them.

Motion made by Ray Schmidt, seconded by Mae Nachman to approve the department claims for the month of December as audited and read.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

4. 2024 Capital Operations and Maintenance Plan - Joel Lemke

Joel Lemke explained the new format of the Capital Operations and Maintenance Plan and explained that if there was a project that was approved in the prior year but not completed, it would be brought forward again for approval. He informed the Commission that future projects are listed on the plan as well. Joel said they do not need approval yet, but are there for their reference. Joel explained the one-third split of the cold storage and the need to have more room to store items that do not need to be kept in a temperature-controlled area but need to be kept in doors. Joel said the aerial photo is also a one-third split. He said that Public Utilities switches off with the Engineering Department for whom pays for the photo. He explained that Engineering paid for it last, so it is our turn to pay for it. Joel explained the items in the Sewer Requests and the need for the upgrades and the costs for Storm Water. He explained the EV charging infrastructure and the push to have a majority of the vehicles in the future be electric.

Ray Schmidt asked if the department has a current service that can be used for the EV charging.

Joel Lemke said yes, that the building has adequate infrastructure for this. He said it will be more productive as the garage produces more solar energy than what we are using.

Carl Rasmussen said he appreciates the remedy of the Capital Operations & Maintenance Plan and thinks this is a much clearer approach. He asked if there was an indicator of potential carryover projects on the list.

Joel Lemke said that could be added in the future. He explained what projects were going to be carried over.

Ray Schmidt asked if the construction of Tower 3 request for 2024 is going to be in addition to the repainting of the other tower.

Joel Lemke explained that with the increased development on the east side in the business park, they are going to isolate the three points for where the water mains come in and make a separate pressure zone. He said once they have that area segregated off, they will construct a new tower for that zone. Joel said there will be a lot of items that will be coming to the commission in the future for approval regarding this project.

Ray Schmidt asked Joel Lemke if the two current towers are in one pressure zone.

Joel Lemke replied yes. He said if they need to take one offline for maintenance, they can. Joel said it will be coming up in the future, but they are considering repainting, reconstructing, or moving. Joel said they are considering demolishing the tower, relocating, and put up a new-style tower that requires less maintenance.

Ray Schmidt asked if they would keep the same location due to the interconnects of the system or would it be relocated to a higher point in the city.

Joel Lemke said they would most likely relocate due to the infrastructure. He said it would either remain in its current location or the former booster station on Georgia Street because of where the mains go in the City.

Motion made by Carl Rasmussen, seconded by Anna Haines to approve the 2024 Capital Operations and Maintenance Plan.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

5. Schedule of pay for Utility certifications - Joel Lemke

Joel Lemke summarized his memo stating that after Act 10 and with the development of the City Pay Plans, they have documented the wages that are approved through the City's pay plan in the contract. He said if COLA is offered, then the wage is not negotiable. Joel said the City said that anything that is non-negotiable, such as the certification pay, should not be included with the contract. Joel said that there is a document created called 'Public Utility Schedule of Certification Pay' that took

everything from the contract and separated it out as Human Resources and City Legal advised. He said the document would go to Personnel for similar action.

Motion made by Mae Nachman, seconded by Anna Haines to approve the schedule of pay for Utility certifications.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

6. 2024 Teamsters Contract - Joel Lemke

Joel Lemke explained the 2024 union contract and said it does not include certification or standby pay. He said nothing in this contract is negotiable because the City offered COLA. Joel said the contract is being put in place for health insurance as well.

Carl Rasumessen asked if there was a change in protocol as he did not remember doing this before.

Joel Lemke said since around 2000, all personnel matters have been going through the Personnel Committee. He said anything that has a financial impact on the utilities should be seen by the commission as well. He said the Personnel Committee will be acting on this tonight.

Ray Schmidt asked Joel Lemke if the City pays the certification or if it up to the individual operator.

Joel Lemke said the utilities pays the operator for holding those certifications and confirmed that the certifications belong to the operator.

Motion made by Ray Schmidt, seconded by Carl Rasmussen to approve the 2024 teamsters contract.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

7. Water Supply and Distribution Reports - Eric Southworth

Eric Southworth said at the end of the fourth quarter of 2023 the EPA requires us to do the unregulated contaminant monitoring rule. He said each year they are required to test different chemicals and this year PFAS was included in the testing. Eric said PFAS not detected. He said they are working on the end-of-year reports for the Public Service commission and auditors. He called for questions and said we had a record high for pumpage.

8. Sewage Treatment Operations Report - Chris Lefebvre

Chris Lefevre said they met the permit requirements for December and said it was a good month. He said a lot of things have gotten fixed and are now operational. He said some of the reports are incomplete because they do not have all the data yet.

9. Construction and Maintenance Report - *Shane Kohnen*

Shane Kohnen said he does not have a lot of construction wise right now. He said it has been typical end of year and winter maintenance schedules. Including tracking, inventory, end of year tasks, and getting ready for snow this week.

10. Directors Report - *Joel Lemke*

Joel Lemke said he had nothing to add.

11. Adjournment.

Motion made by Ray Schmidt to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:32 P.M.