

**City of Stevens Point
Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners
October 14, 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: Carl Rasmussen, Anna Haines, Ray Schmidt

ALSO PRESENT: Joel Lemke, Jenny Schmeiser, Eric Southworth, Chris Lefebvre, Shane Kohnen, Jason Draheim, Ald. Shuda and Jaime Zdroik

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Paul Adamski, Mae Nachman

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Anna Haines, seconded by Ray Schmidt to approve the September 9, 2024, meeting minutes of the Board of Water & Sewerage Commission.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Department Claims

Joel stated the Commission will see a large payment in regards to a Fiber project to extend conduit and fiber in the City.

Motion made by Ray Schmidt, seconded by Anna Haines to approve the department claims for the month of September 2024 as audited and read.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

4. Water Supply and Distribution Reports - *Eric Southworth*

Eric stated Well 12 drilling started today. They will be onsite for approximately two weeks.

5. Sewage Treatment Operations Report - *Chris Lefebvre*

Chris stated that all D.N.R. required permit limits were met for the month of September. They are working on outside equipment getting ready for winter.

6. Construction and Maintenance Report - *Shane Kohnen*

Shane stated all the utilities have been installed on Bliss Avenue and Mason Street and the contractors will just be finishing up some paving. All utilities have also been installed

on Badger Avenue project in the Business Park. On Forest Creek there are just a few services to complete yet. The Northside project will not be completed this year.

Crews are installing storm mains on W Scott St. They are replacing laterals outside of the Walker Street project. Crews are continuing to televise, cut, jet and flush lines.

Industrial Park project has also been completed by our crews.

7. Discussion of lateral line replacement - Joel Lemke

Joel explained that every year we have several customers who find their sanitary lateral has collapsed/broken and needs to be replaced. When it is in the right-of-way, they own it, and it is their cost to replace it. This unexpected cost to the homeowner is approximately \$4,000 to \$10,000. We do not offer payment plans or have grants for this.

We are looking for solutions to help homeowners with these unexpected costs. One possible solution is to start collecting a small fee, approximately \$2/month from sewer customers, to cover all sewer lateral line replacements in the public right-of-way. We could hold the money in-house and/or use it as part of a program where a third party administers this program and other customer-focused programs.

Joel also explained that when we do our annual projects, the utility pays for new laterals because they are in our way to construct new mains. So, essentially, someone could replace their broken sanitary lateral at their own cost and if that road is part of the annual project, say in the future, we would be replacing those laterals anyway, so it is a complicated issue.

They are looking into the different potential options and will report back to the Commission in the coming months.

8. Notice of employee seeking elected office - Joel Lemke

Joel stated there has been no conflict with this and recommends the Commission approve it. This will also go to the Personnel Committee tonight.

Motion made by Anna Haines, seconded by Ray Schmidt to approve of an employee seeking elected office.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.

9. Directors Report - Joel Lemke

Nothing to report.

10. Adjournment.

Motion made by Anna Haines to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.