

Cumberland, Wisconsin  
December 19, 2022

The monthly meeting of the Cumberland Municipal Utility Commission was called to order on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in the Utility Conference Room located at 1265 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Cumberland, Wisconsin, by Utility Commission President, Craig Turcott. The following commissioners were present: Craig Turcott, Gerald Thon, John Anderson, Louis E. Muench and Thomas Goldsmith. Also in attendance was General Manager Dean Bergstrom, Office Manager Lori Nyhus, Mayor Dan Shoemaker, Alderperson Bill Lussier, Alderperson Jim Schullo, Alderperson Butch O'Dell, Tom Schroeder and Todd Roeschlein. Also present via video conference call was Tom Polacek.

There was no public comment.

The commissioners reviewed the minutes from the November 21, 2022, meeting that were provided in advance. After discussion, a motion was made by Muench and seconded by Thon, to approve the set of minutes from November 21, 2022, as presented; motion carried.

The commissioners reviewed the voucher listing for approval that was provided in advance. After various questions, a motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Goldsmith, to approve payment of said vouchers numbered 13564 through 13692, with four automatic payment transactions and 21 voided checks, for total dollar amount of \$334,175.71. All commissioners voted yes; vouchers approved.

Next, Tom Polacek gave an overview of the Sewer Utility financials via video conference call. This also included the 2019 objectives when he started looking at the Sewer Utility. He provided an overview of the Sewer and Water joint projects with the City of Cumberland and the various funding sources for said projects. Tom mentioned the necessity of a needs assessment for the new Utility Shop. In addition, we will look at rates for all Utilities as a whole and try not to pancake the rates in the same year. Instead, we will try to spread them out. There were many questions and comments throughout the presentation. The mayor asked Tom to get in touch with Shawn Lentz to provide the City and Utility direction on how to finance and pay for debt that has accumulated over the last couple of years. The commissioners thanked Mr. Polacek for his time and for the presentation. We look forward to hearing from him more in the future.

Office Manager Nyhus then presented the 2023 Sewer Budget and User Rates. As Ms. Nyhus discussed all the line items in the budget and explained how we came up with the Operation Maintenance Charge per 1,000 gallons used. The proposed rate will be \$22.02 per 1,000 gallons. The Debt Replacement allocation, which will be in the REC charge, will be \$25.20 per REC. This will be a percentage increase of 6.65% compared to 2022. After some discussion, a motion was made by Thon and seconded by Muench, to accept the proposed Sewer Budget for 2023 along with said rates. All commissioners voted yes; motion carried.

Next on the agenda was to approve the 2022 Baker Tilly Audit Engagement Letter. After much discussion from Mayor Shoemaker and Alderman Lussier, and receiving the information approximately one hour before the meeting, it was noted that the overall cost for the proposals was a difference of \$28,840.00 for City and Utility Audits. Clifton Laursen Allen was the least expensive. A motion was made by Goldsmith and seconded by Anderson, to approve the 2022 Baker Tilly Audit Engagement Letter. All commissioners voted against and none voted for passing of the 2022 Baker Tilly Audit Engagement Letter; motion failed. The proposals will be investigated further to ensure they are proposing the same services. This will be brought back at the next commission meeting in January.

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The next item was to briefly discuss the Utility and City Shop project. A budget has been proposed for the project and a meeting is set for Wednesday, December 21 at 4:00 p.m. at Cumberland City Hall for a joint City Council and Utility Commission meeting. A presentation will be given by Northwest Builders at the meeting. There being no further action to take, we will meet on Wednesday for said meeting.

The next item was to discuss and approve the Utility employee wage and benefit package for 2023. There was some discussion with the General Manager, after which, a motion was made by Goldsmith and seconded by Thon, to go into closed session. Next, a motion was made by Goldsmith and seconded by Thon, to come out of closed session. A motion was made by Muench and seconded by Anderson, to approve a 2% wage increase for the General Manager, Office Manager, PT Office Assistant, Generation Supervisor, Sewer OIC and Sewer Operator. In addition, a \$2.50/hour wage increase will be given to FT Office Assistants (2), Journeyman Line Supervisor and Journeymen (2), and a \$3.00/hour wage increase for Generation Maintenance for 2023. All commissioners voted yes; motion carried. The wage increase was approved.

The General Manager then gave a brief report that the billing has been done and sent out to customers for the October billing period. The office staff hopes to get the next billing out in approximately two weeks for the month of November. Things continue to get rebuilt and re-done in the software and billing portions of the system. There is still much work to be done in the future, but we will continue to work diligently to get the job done.

Next, the General Manager informed commissioners that there was a small power outage on Sylvan Street that affected Louie's wild game facility and three or four homes. It was said that there was a bad fuse that blew, so a new fuse was installed and power was restored. In addition, we only had two service outages to residents during the two winter storms in the previous week. It was noted that the tree trimming and underground construction projects on Hines Lakeview Drive and many years ago on Jeffery Boulevard have really paid dividends as far as avoiding outages during winter or summers storms. Also, we sent one lineman to help Barron Electric Cooperative in restoring power to approximately 9,000 customers. He said things went well as he worked three days for Barron Electric Cooperative.

The General Manager then provided an update on getting water out to the new hospital. We are having issues with getting safe samples, so we are doing some system chlorinating toward the new hospital area. We will retest and hope to receive good samples.

The Utility Christmas Party invoice was paid by an anonymous donor. That individual wished Cumberland Municipal Utility a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and thanked them for keeping the lights on and making Cumberland beautiful for the Christmas and holiday season.

Lastly, there was discussion on setting the next meeting date. The next meeting date will be Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Utility Conference Room.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Goldsmith and seconded by Thon. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Thon, Secretary