

Cumberland, Wisconsin  
February 1, 2023

The monthly meeting of the Cumberland Municipal Utility Commission was called to order on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.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 and Thomas Goldsmith. Louis E. Muench was an approved absence. Also in attendance was General Manager Dean Bergstrom, Office Manager Lori Nyhus, Utility Billing Clerk Amanda Cook, Mayor Dan Shoemaker, Tom Schroeder and Michael Benjamin.

A motion was made by Goldsmith and seconded by Thon, to approve the agenda. Motion carried; agenda approved.

During the public comment period, Michael Benjamin spoke about lack of communication between the City and Utility in reference to street repair work and/or possible sewer replacement on Comstock Avenue near his property. He expressed concern regarding the City and Utility not being on the same page for projects moving forward.

Next, commissioners reviewed the minutes from the December 19, 2022 meeting that were provided in advance. After discussion, a motion was made by Goldsmith and seconded by Thon, to approve the set of minutes from December 19, 2022 as presented; motion carried. Next, the commissioners reviewed the minutes from the January 4, 2023 meeting that were provided in advance. After discussion, a motion was made by Thon and seconded by Anderson, to approve the set of minutes from January 4, 2023 as presented; motion carried.

The commissioners reviewed the voucher listing for approval that was provided in advance. After a few questions, a motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Goldsmith, to approve payment of said vouchers numbered 13726 through 13822, with ten automatic payment transactions, for total dollar amount of \$516,677.82. Motion carried; vouchers approved.

There were no changes with the Utility Project Report, so Office Manager Nyhus then reviewed the December financials. In the Electric Department, sales were down slightly overall for the month of December. This is largely due to 3M's usage being down for the current month and also down year-to-date. The net income for the Electric Department was \$65,731.00 compared to \$36,517.00 last year at this time. Year-to-date, we are at \$435,855.00 compared to last year at \$368,489.00. There were notes regarding Distribution Labor Expenses, as vacation is an expense when earned. One lineman went on vacation in December which increased the labor in both December 2021 and 2022. In addition, labor for work on the shed on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue was capitalized, which decreases our labor expenses in 2021. In our Admin and General Non-Labor, current monthly expenses increased due to that work on the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue shed. Expenses also increased due to computer issues, work on the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue shed, some truck repairs and also gasoline price increases. It was also noted that the cost of power has increased from an average of .0691 cents per kilowatt in 2021 to .0881 cents per kilowatt in 2022. The Water Department sales are up this month mainly due to 700,000 gallons of water used in a vacated home. Water is shut off at this time and no response has been received from the homeowner. It was noted that 3M is down about 95,000 gallons for the current month and down about 99,000 gallons year-to-date. The Sewer Department is up about 210,000 gallons for the current month and 928,000 gallons year-to-date. This is due to the smaller screen size that we installed, so more cleaning is required to keep the screens open. In addition, there was a leak found in December. We are unsure how long it had been running in months prior, but it has been fixed and we hope to see a decrease in water usage. Our Total Operation and Maintenance Expenses are down for this month compared to this time last year, with our Total Operating Revenues about the same as last year at this time. The net income for the Water Department is \$19,527.00, whereas last year it was \$4,496.00 and year-to-date we are at \$117,382.00 and last year we were at \$111,934.00. Sewer sales are also up due to the vacated residence with the 700,000-gallon water leak. Net income for Sewer Operation and Maintenance was negative \$30,388.00 compared to last year at this time when we were at a positive \$191,490.00. For REC charges, we are close to the same as we were last year at this time at \$40,777.00. Last year we were at \$40,520.00. Total income less expenses, we are at a negative \$113,465.00, whereas last year we were at \$124,295.00. We made some payments in the month of December on Debt Retirement, and it was noted that we are behind one month in collections, so we will be catching up in the next month or two, but it does reflect on the financials. We also had Tom Polacek review and provide assistance in 2022, as we were working on the Sewer Budget. We had MSA Facility Plan Update, audit expenses increase \$2,700.00 and there was a GASB 68 where adjustments were made for year-end to employee pensions and benefits. Our cash-on-hand balance for the Utility is very strong and the Utility is in sound financial condition. A motion was made by Thon and seconded by Goldsmith, to approve the financial statements as presented; motion carried.

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Next there was discussion to approve bids on an Alkota pressure washer system for the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue maintenance shop. After much discussion, a motion was made by Turcott and seconded by Goldsmith, to postpone purchasing this pressure washer and include it in the 2024 budget. Motion carried.

Next was discussion and approval of a proposal for treatment for Well #5. After much discussion, a motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Goldsmith, to proceed with CTW in performing a full pull of Well #5, completing a hydrochloric acid wash and going through the pumps, motors and stainless shaft line for a base project price of \$45,315.00 with a possible acid wash for an additional \$3,000.00-\$4,000.00. In addition, if items need to be replaced that were not included in the first bid, that would be an additional cost. Motion carried; proposal approved.

Next was discussion and approval of the Utility Shop building. There was some discussion about storage containers. There will be a walk-through of Plant 8 at Ardisam on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am and we will have a list of questions to ask prior to meeting on Thursday.

Next, the General Manager passed a thank you card around from Tom and Elizabeth Hodgson for the reimbursement of their homeowner's insurance deductible due to an insurance claim that was done last winter for thawing of the waterline that caused smoke damage in their house.

There is an update on the water samples out to the new hospital. We are continuously working to obtain safe samples so the hospital can move forward getting their samples taken and proceed with opening in the next couple months. We will continue to work on this issue and there will be a meeting on Thursday at 1:00pm to discuss this with the hospital and the Wendel Corporation who is building the new hospital.

A motion was made by Goldsmith and seconded by Anderson, to go into closed session. There was a role call vote with the following responses from the commissioners: Goldsmith-yay, Thon-yay, Anderson-yay and Turcott-yay. We are in closed session. A motion was made by Goldsmith and seconded by Anderson to come out of closed session. There was a role call vote with the following responses from the commissioners: Goldsmith-yay, Thon-yay, Anderson-yay and Turcott-yay. We are out of closed session. Being that there was only discussion and no needed action taken due to a phone meeting with the PSA on what action could be taken for treatment of the Electrical Sale Capacity revenue, the closed session was for discussion purposes only.

It was noted that the next commission meeting date will be Tuesday, March 21, 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



Minutes prepared by Dean Bergstrom, General Manager