

Cumberland, Wisconsin  
November 21, 2022

The monthly meeting of the Cumberland Municipal Utility Commission was called to order on Monday, November 21, 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, Utility Billing Clerk Amanda Cook, Mayor Dan Shoemaker, Alderperson Bill Lussier, Alderperson Jim Schullo, Alderperson Doris Larson and Michael Benjamin.

During public comment, Michael Benjamin inquired about his Comstock Avenue lot on the lake near the LP plant. He was inquiring about the cost for installation of water and electric services. General Manager Dean Bergstrom told him the electricity is free of charge and the water and sewer services would be at his expense to hire a contractor to dig and run the services into his property. There was no further public comment.

The commissioners reviewed the minutes from the October 17, 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 October 17, 2022, as presented; motion carried.

Next, the commission reviewed the October 20, 2022, special meeting minutes that were provided in advance of the meeting. After discussion, a motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Goldsmith, to approve the set of minutes from October 20, 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 Muench and seconded by Thon to approve payment of said vouchers numbered 13432 through 13563, with seven voided checks due to printing errors and eight automatic payment transactions, for total dollar amount of \$587,136.37. Motion carried; vouchers approved.

Miss Cook then presented the Utility Project Report, which shows projects occurring in all departments at the Utility. There were a few changes for this month. Nine water meters were purchased for a total of \$1,559.74. In addition, Units #1-4 day tank fuel pump valve parts were \$850.00 for started projects. The final page of the report shows water and sewer projects with project costs completed-to-date, balanced-to-complete and the funding sources for such projects. The commissioners thanked Miss Cook for her presentation.

Next, Ms. Nyhus reviewed the financial position of the Utility with the commissioners on paper materials that were provided in advance and by overhead projection via PowerPoint. In the Electric Department, sales were up across the board for kilowatts in the month of October, for a positive 361,297 kilowatts compared to last year at this time. The total dollars in sales were also up about \$90,000.00, but this was largely due to the added cost of electricity compared to this time last year. After Operating and Maintenance Expenses, our net income was approximately \$4,500.00 more than last year currently. Year-to-date, we are down about \$85,000.00. In the Water Department, sales were down in Residential but up in Commercial and Industrial, as Seneca canned for an extra week in the month of October. Seneca used over 9,000,000 gallons year-to-date and 7,000,000 gallons for the current month higher than last year. After looking at all income and expenses, the Utility ended with negative \$2,000.00 more than last year at this time, but interest was paid on the long-term loan debt of \$7,700.00. Year-to-date, we are down about \$26,000.00 in income compared to last year at this time. Sewer Department sales were also up about 433,000 gallons for this month compared to last year and our REC charges are up by about 62 RECs compared to 2021. We had a net income of \$31,500.00 in O&M compared to last year when we were negative \$17,000.00. This year we have a year-to-date income of \$221,000.00 compared to last year's \$83,000. Our total income less expenses is almost \$48,000.00 compared to \$9,000.00 last year at this time. Year-to-date, we are at \$310,764.00, whereas last year were at \$181,764.00. Debt payments were made in October of approximately \$24,000.00. 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 Anderson, to approve the Project Reports and financial statements as presented; motion carried.

Next on the agenda was to approve employee dental insurance for 2023. After much discussion and after last month's meeting where Delta Dental was approved for the employees, it was discovered that Cumberland Family Dental would no longer accept Delta Dental insurance. With some research, the following four options were compared: the current Anthem plan, a new Anthem plan with a higher deductible, the Delta Dental option that was presented last month and also Companion dental insurance. After much discussion, a motion was made by Goldsmith and second by Anderson, to go with the Companion

dentel insurance option for 2023, with the employees sharing 12% of the cost. Employees have the option to choose different plans for themselves, spouse, or children. All commissioners voted yes; motion carried.

Next on the agenda was to review and approve the 2022 Baker Tilly Audit Engagement Letter. After discussion, a motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Thon, to table this discussion. Mayor Shoemaker asked us to wait until we have figures from Baker Tilly and the City's auditing firm to compare for the City and Utility to possibly use the same auditing firm in 2023. Motion carried. Review and approval of the 2022 Baker Tilly Audit Engagement letter was tabled until the December meeting.

Next a motion was made by Muench and seconded by Anderson, to approve Jordan Peichel as the UMMEG alternate representative. All commissioners voted yes; motion carried.

The General Manager presented a map for a potential Well #6 site that could be purchased from the Cumberland Baptist Church. After having CBS Squared and a wetland delineator evaluate the property, it was their opinion that the site would provide ample area and be a good location for the new Well #6 site. A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Muench, to proceed with the purchase of the property from Cumberland Baptist Church, with the Cumberland Utility preparing an option to purchase said property for \$5,000.00. The Utility will pay for any fees above and beyond for surveying and closing costs. In the end, Cumberland Baptist Church will receive \$5,000.00. The only stipulation is that this site needs DNR approval for Well #6, otherwise the agreement will void. All commissioners voted yes; motion carried.

Next, there was some discussion regarding the joint Utility/City Shop project. Northwest Builders is working on a site plan for stormwater drainage, the lay-down area for inventory and various Utility and City use and is changing some things in the office space area for the Utility. There was not a lot to report, but they hope to return with a nearly completed plan in the next three weeks.

The General Manager then gave an update on the computer problems that occurred last month. The hard drive on the main server failed and in turn, a lot of the data was lost. The data we were told was being backed up was not backed up. We were able to retrieve some data and we are working to rebuild our billing system. Our bills for the month of October will be out late and customers will still have 20 days to pay from the time the bills are sent out. We will try to stagger the bills in the future in order to catch up and get on the normal routine after that.

There is project progress at the shop on 8th Avenue. It is now insulated, and the walls are getting steel put on, the bathroom is being framed in and the heat will be installed in the next couple of weeks. The WeEnergies natural gas service has been installed, so things are moving along nicely for that building. Also, some items have been placed on auction. The Sewer Plant gator is already up to \$5,000.00 and a few other items are receiving bids. The auction will end on November 29, at 12:00 p.m.

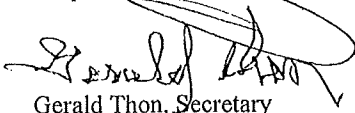
Tom Polacek has been busy working on financials between the City and the Utility on various projects that have been happening the last two years with different funding sources. He has been talking with Lori at the Utility Office and Kim at the City Hall, along with Shawn Lentz from Ehlers, the City's financial advisor. He is making progress and will soon have a synopsis of his findings.

Lastly, the commissioners were presented with a wage information sheet. This showed the wages and total benefits package that the employees have for 2022 and what those wages would look like with insurance costs for 2023. After some discussion, there will be a line-item on December's meeting to discuss wage increases for the Utility employees.

It was noted that the next commission meeting date will be Monday, December 19, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in the Utility Conference Room.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gerald Thon, Secretary