

**Lanesboro Public Utilities Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 22, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Lanesboro Community Center Meeting Room & Zoom**

Present

Members: X Jon Pieper X Elliot Riggott X Brian Roelofs
Staff: X Mitchell Walbridge X Darla Taylor X Jerod Wagner
Visitors: Don Bell, Stephen Rogers, Karen Heimdahl, Andy Heimdahl, Mindy Albrecht-Benson

Regular Meeting:

Member Pieper called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

A. Agenda: Member Roelofs entered a motion to approve the agenda as submitted; Member Riggott seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

B. Public Comments:

- Don Bell shared comments on the wastewater treatment facility and the operation problems it has experienced in the past several months. Bell recommended the commission members and engineers look at the specifications of the plant design to determine what is malfunctioning.

C. Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of Regular Meeting, July 15, 2024
- b. Minutes of Special Meeting, August 1, 2024
- c. Financial Summary – July 2024
- d. Accounts Payable

Member Riggott entered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Member Roelofs seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

D. Staff Update: Public Utilities Supervisor Jerod Wagner shared the staff update.

- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) did an audit of electrical equipment. Supervisor Wagner reported the audit went okay and expects a feedback report in the coming weeks.
- Supervisor Wagner gave an update on the 40401(d) Electrical Resiliency Grant. At this time Wagner is uncomfortable moving forward due to the match requirement and the intended uses for grant funds as there would be additional implementation costs for Lanesboro Public Utilities once a battery study is completed. Wagner is looking forward to a state grant opportunity that is upcoming in which no matching funds would be required. Because using electric fund reserves had been authorized at the August 1, 2024 special meeting, Member Pieper entered a motion to rescind the grant expenditure authorization; Member Roelofs seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- Supervisor Wagner reported that the wastewater treatment facility again failed its CBOD test with a score of 30. However, Wagner reported that he thinks progress is being made in identifying where the breakdown in the process is happening. The next testing sample is due back next week. Member Roelofs requested a flow chart to help understand the stages of the treatment process and what is happening to the CBOD levels at each stage.

E. City Council Update: City council member Mindy Albrecht-Benson was present at the meeting but did not have any updates from the city council to share.

Continued Business

A. WWTF – Significant Industrial User Agreement: Andy and Karen Heimdahl of Sylvan Brewing, LLC, attended the meeting to provide feedback on the drafted industrial user agreement that had been sent to them for review. They presented data and shared their perspective on several provisions of the proposed agreement, with a focus on the costs associated with installing a holding tank, setting up a testing site, and the fee schedule outlined in the agreement. Andy Heimdahl also provided a timeline of events that led the Heimdahls to question whether their brewery is contributing to the issues at the new

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wastewater facility, and whether they should be required to enter into the agreement at all. Members noted that the draft agreement serves as a starting point for discussion. Member Pieper recommended forming a special committee to work with the Heimdahls to reach a compromise on the drafted agreement. Pieper then moved to appoint Public Utilities Supervisor Jerod Wagner, City Administrator Mitchell Walbridge, Jake Pichelmann, P.E. with Bolton & Menk, Inc., Public Utilities Commissioner Brian Roelofs, and City Attorney Joe O’Koren to the committee. Member Roelofs seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

B. Capital Projects – Land Application: Utilities Supervisor Wagner shared that the permit application for land application has been submitted and is being reviewed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

New Business

A. 2025 Preliminary Budget: Administrator Walbridge shared that he is working on a first draft of the public utilities budget for 2025 and will share it with members as soon as it is completed. Member Pieper entered a motion to table the budget discussion; Member Roelofs seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Member Pieper adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk