

VILLAGE OF MARATHON CITY, MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING – HYBRID
VILLAGE HALL – BOARD ROOM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025 - 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER at 4:02 pm

UTILITY ROLL CALL: A. BERENS, B. BOHR, M. TELFORD, D. SEILER, K. HANDRICK JR.
Absent from meeting was D. Seiler.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- a. Virtual Meeting Guidelines
 - i. This meeting will be recorded and available upon request
- b. Public Participation at Government Meetings
Attending in person was Casey Krautkramer from the Record Review. Attending virtually was Carrey Spencer from the WI Department of Health Services.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Discuss and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes for December 11, 2024 Utility Commission Meeting

Motion – Approve Minutes from December 11, 2024 Meeting

Motion made by Handrick second by Bohr. Motion passed by voice vote.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

Commission Members questioned the following Checks:

#48378 – Hydrant on Chestnut St – Insurance claim paid for, less \$1,000 deductible

#48384 – Parts City order – ball hitch

#48432 and #48438 – Kwik Trip damaged meter parts reimbursed by Kwik Trip

#48466 – PGA work to replace Chestnut St hydrant – Insurance claim paid for, less \$1,000 deductible

Motion – Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Telford second by Handrick. Motion passed by voice vote.

6. PUBLIC UTILITY OPERATIONS REPORT

- a. Facilities Report

Director of Public Works - Ken Bloom, presented the Facilities Report which can be found in the agenda packet.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Discuss and Possible Action on Replacing Lead Water Service Lateral

Administrator Cherek presented the Commission with the fact that there are at least 2 known properties that have lead water service laterals from home to curb stop. He also informed them that since the Village has been lucky to have little known lead water service laterals that it would cost them more to get a grant to help out than what the grant would pay out. With the help of the Director of Public Works, they determined the standard cost to replace lead laterals to be about \$3,500. Cherek suggested paying a set dollar amount to homeowners to help pay for replacement of laterals.

The Commission members discussed different options, including paying a set amount to homeowners, and determined that since the lead levels have been testing so low that it is in the best interest of the Village to keep testing the water for lead and inform the homeowner of the test results. This would put the decision whether to replace the lines or not in the control of the homeowners.

If they are not replaced by 2026, those sites could become DNR lead testing sites.

b. Discussion on Village Board Approval of KC Industries Settlement

Administrator Cherek shared with the Commission that the Village Board accepted the settlement from KC Industries at their regular Board Meeting on January 2nd, 2025 for \$24,721. Under the terms of this settlement agreement, KC Industries has 30 days to remove their equipment since the date The Village cashed payment. Cherek informed them that he is working with VanderWaal Law on a letter reminding them that they have 2 more weeks remaining to remove their equipment.

c. Discussion and Possible Action on DNR Pilot Study for Fluoride Addition to Water Facility

Administrator Cherek pointed out that with the KC Industries settlement resolved, the water-soluble tablet fluoride Pilot Study has also come to an end. The Village is required to send a letter to the DNR informing them that we are discontinuing the fluoride pilot study and restarting the previous fluoride treatment system.

Cherek stated that with getting the old system back up and running the Village would not be required to pay back the Grant provided by the State Health Department. Director of Public Works-Bloom also mentioned that he got approval from the DNR to restart the old fluoride system without having to create a new chemical room separate from the chlorine. However, this will have to get upgraded in the future, Director Bloom stated.

Restarting the old system back up will require some additional costs. The new SCADA system does not work with the old fluoride system so that will need to be upgraded. This is projected to cost a couple thousand dollars. The Utility Department will also need to invest in a new scale to be used for fluoride as the old one is now utilized for chlorine. The cost of a new scale is estimated to be around \$1,000. The old system will still require employees to come in on the weekend.

After discussion it was agreed that the Utility Department would get the old fluoride system back up and running as soon as possible.

Motion – Have Director of Public Works Send the DNR a Letter Removing the Fluoride Pilot Study and Begin to Implement the Previous Fluoride Treatment System

Motion made by Handrick second by Telford. Motion passed by voice vote.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss Water Main Break on 1st St

Administrator Cherek informed the Commission of a Water Main Break on 1st St, between Washington St and Hickory St, that was discovered the week of February 9th. He presented them with a breakdown of costs incurred to fix the break which totaled \$5,828.26 and included Village staff time, contractor work and parts to fix the pipe. The asphalt and curb on 1st St will need to be repaired in spring which will add to the total cost of repair. With asphalt already needing to be done, the Village is looking into replacing a hydrant near this location, that currently does not have a shutoff valve, at the same time with the \$5,000 in the hydrant budget.

b. Discussion on Total Phosphorus Credit for 2024

Administrator Cherek briefed the Commission on the phosphorus budget of \$25,100 for 2025, based on the cost of \$25,051 the previous year. He proceeded to tell them that the payment for 2025 will be \$11,489, a savings of \$13,611 in the budget. The reason for the decrease in cost this year is largely due to the new Waste Water Treatment Plant and the good management of the facility in keeping it running to the standards the Village expects.

c. Discussion on Wastewater Treatment Plant Closure Report

Cherek presented the Commission with a letter from the DNR stating that they were requesting additional information in response to the old Waste Water Treatment Plant Closure Report that got submitted by the Village in November 2024. This letter can be found in the agenda packet.

The additional information needed was submitted with the help of Strand Associates the week of February 17th. Administrator Cherek, Director of Public Works - Bloom, and Strand Associates all believe this submittal will finalize the closure of the old WWTP. In having Strand help with this closure, the Village has spent \$6,393 of the 2025 budget to date on the closeout process.

d. Discussion and Possible Action on Strand Associates Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 24-02, Pursuant to Agreement for Technical Services

Administrator Cherek informed the Commission that the 2025 outside services budget for Waste Water was at \$12,000 and included the expected \$10,000 cost from Strand for the Phosphorus credits needed. Since having to utilize Strand more than expected on the old WWTP Closure Report and expending \$6,393 of the \$10,000 original Strand Task Order, Cherek proposed to the Commission to approve an Amended Task Order for an additional \$10,000.

If the full amount of Task Order (\$20,000) is used, Cherek noted that would put the Waste Water Department's outside services budget over by about \$8,000. But since the Phosphorus

Credit is projected to be under budget by \$13,611, Cherek feels the overall budget should still end in good financial standing for the year.

Motion – Approve Strand Associates Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 24-02, Pursuant to Agreement for Technical Services

Motion made by Berens second by Handrick. Motion passed by voice vote.

e. Discussion and Possible Action on Water Tower Maintenance Repair Work Needed

Administrator Cherek shared that Lang Tank was in earlier in the week to give a quote on the welding repair work needed on the water tower. We had budgeted \$20,000 in total repairs with the water tower reservoir identified on the DNR non-compliance report to be completed by this year.

In his review, the representative from Lang Tank stated the water tower also needs to be painted, as it is showing signs of issues. He said it would be on the DNR list to be completed within the next 2 to 5 years. The last time the tower was painted was 2004 and the life expectancy of the paint is around 20 to 25 years. He pulled up past records indicating that the inside epoxy paint is more than likely needing to be done as well. Overall, the cost to weld, prime and paint the tower would be around \$129,000.

In reviewing the Village's existing projects, Cherek, along with Bloom, feel this could be grouped together with the bonding the Village is planning to be doing in late spring/early summer. This project could be grouped together with the water main replacement on Washington St (around \$117,000) and the chemical room upgrade needed to continue with the old fluoride treatment system (around \$70,000). The amount needed for bonding for those 3 projects would be \$316,000.

The Water Department is currently paying \$71,394.12 in loan payments for the 3rd St water main and is scheduled to be making this amount in payments for 4 more years. In looking at the bond markets, we could bond the remaining amount along with the 3 above projects and amortize it out 20 years.

Cherek figures, if done around July, the Bond market would be \$200,000 for 3rd St remainder and \$316,000 in the new projects, making \$516,000 in total bonding for the Water Department. The payment would be around \$40,864.44 a year, freeing up around \$30,000 in yearly operating budget space and saving us from having to do water rate increases.

Cherek believes he will have more information in the next few months, as the Village Board takes up the future Capital Improvement Projects along with the review of the 2024 Audit.

9. SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- a. Regular Meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.
- b. Special Meetings as Needed

10. ADJOURNMENT at 5:58 pm

Motion to adjourn made by Handrick second by Bohr. Motion passed by voice vote.

Cassie Lang
Village Clerk / Deputy Treasurer