

April 26, 2011

Commissioners Present :  
Steve Nelson, President  
Mike Wallerich, Larry Hanson, Steve Schmidt, Lynn Schoen  
Staff Present:  
Dave Vosen, Utilities Superintendent

### Proceedings of the Utilities Commission

The regular monthly meeting of the Utilities Commission of the City of Wabasha was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 and was called to order by Commissioner Wallerich at 4:06 p.m.

Roll call found all Commissioners present except Nelson and Hanson. Commissioner Hanson arrived at 4:12 pm.

Mr. Bill Knabe and Ms. Judith Peters were also present.

**Commissioners Schmidt and Schoen moved to approve the minutes of March 29, 2011 meeting. Adopted unanimously.**

**Commissioners Schmidt and Wallerich moved to approve the regular and prepaid bills as submitted. Adopted unanimously.**

#### Water Dept:

BAKER'S WELDING & TRUCK	SUPPLIES	\$13.89
CITY OF RED WING	TESTING	\$54.00
DAVID VOSEN	MILEAGE REIMB.	\$100.98
DICK'S AUTO PARTS	EQUIP. MAINT.	\$456.19
DICK'S AUTO PARTS	PARTS RETURNED	-\$199.03
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	LOCATE CALLS	\$10.15
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS	\$5.00
LEAGUE OF MN CITIES INS.	WORKER'S COMP	\$1,919.00
MARATHON PETROLEUM CO.	GAS	\$287.16
PAT MUELLER	UNIFORMS – BOOTS	\$37.50
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE	\$52.08
YAGGY COLBY ASSOC.	ENGINEERING – WATER TOWER	\$812.50
YAGGY COLBY ASSOC.	ENGINEERING – WELL STUDY	\$9988.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,537.42</b>

#### Sewer Dept:

CITY OF RED WING	TESTING	\$516.00
DAVID VOSEN	SUPPLIES – REIMB.	\$200.07
DAVY LABORATORIES	CHEMICALS	\$558.94
DICK'S AUTO PARTS	EQUIP. MAINT.	\$106.52
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS	\$4,410.91
HBC	PHONE	\$72.28
HBC	ALARM	\$37.49
INTERSTATE BUILDING & SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	\$13.08
LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	WORKER'S COMP	\$4,522.00
MARATHON PETROLEUM CO.	GAS	\$271.93

PASSE ELECTRIC	EQUIP. MAINT.	\$1,406.38
PAT MUELLER	TESTING FEE – REIMB.	\$55.00
SCHEEL'S SUPER VALU	SUPPLIES	\$13.52
USA BLUEBOOK	SUPPLIES	\$316.94
UV DOCTOR LAMPS LLC	SEWER DEPT.	\$1,749.46
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL	\$26.36
ZIEGLER, INC.	ANNUAL MAINT. AGREEMENT	\$3,625.00
	TOTAL	\$17,946.88
<b>WATER/SEWER TOTAL</b>		<b>\$31,484.30</b>

**Sewer Adjustment: Bill Knabe** – came forward and asked how long the sewer rate has been set based on the first three months usage. Commissioner Wallerich stated as long as he has been on the Commission it has been that way and Dave Vosen stated since 2003 when they changed over to monthly billing. Mr. Knabe stated it is making dishonest people out of the citizens of Wabasha with that operation. He stated the customer is cheating Wabasha. He pointed out that he used 3,000 gallons for the first two months and 2,000 for one month in which David Vosen stated the City's water meters register per 1,000 gallons so it is averaged to the nearest thousand gallons.

Mr. Knabe also stated he received a letter to have his sewer checked and he asked David what the results have been so far in which David responded that out of 30 or 40 that have been checked, approximately ten services were found to be leaking surface water into the service. Mr. Knabe stated his next door neighbor whose property is lower did not get a letter. David stated they should have gotten a letter. They selected the low lying areas and tried the best they could to get all the addresses. Mr. Knabe stated there has been two foreign service trucks, in which David Vosen stated the Company is Infratech, and they are sealing manholes from ground water leaking into the manholes and then getting into the services. Mr. Knabe stated he has a water softener that runs due to the amount of water used.

**Sewer adjustment: Judith Peters, 118 Lawrence Blvd. East** – Ms. Peters stated Culligan's came today and they discovered she had used 7 bags of salt or 280 lbs. in the last three months. She stated her water softener was recycling every six days which she wasn't aware of. Culligan's reprogrammed her water softener. It was determined to wait another month and see if the usage returns to normal.

**Sewer adjustment: Mary Lager, 1118 Sixth Street** – Ms. Lager submitted a letter stating she had a leak in the bathroom and her nephew fixed it at the end of February. After discussion, it was determined to adjust Ms. Lager's sewer rate back to 2000 gallons.

**Sewer adjustment: Doris Baker, 714 Hiawatha Drive East** – Commissioner Schmidt stated Ms. Baker had a water softener malfunction which he fixed. After discussion, it was determined to adjust Ms. Baker's sewer rate back to 2000 gallons.

**Sewer adjustment: Heather Swain, 510 Phelps Avenue** – Heather Swain reported she had a leak which was fixed. Her 2010 sewer rate was set at 4000 gallons. After discussion, it was determined to watch her usage for another month.

**Sewer adjustment: Joel Carlson, 718 Tenth Street East** – Mr. Carlson had reported he fixed a leaking toilet. Due to his usage being very sporadic, it was determined to watch for another month.

**Sewer adjustment: Eleanore Dick, 529 Twelfth Street East** – It was reported Ms. Dick had a leak that was fixed and she also submitted a copy of her bill from Hartert’s. After discussion, it was determined to adjust her sewer rate back to 2000 gallons.

**Sewer adjustment: Denny & Anne Bergan, 913 Broadway Avenue** - Denny and Anne submitted a letter explaining they were gone for two weeks in January in which a toilet was running. They reported they replaced the toilet. They also contacted Cullip’s in reference to their water softener and it was reported to be working properly. After discussion, it was determined to watch for another month.

**Commissioners Schmidt and Hanson moved to monitor and/or amend the sewer adjustments as proposed: adopted unanimously.**

- **Mr. Bill Knabe – 310 Bridge Avenue – No adjustment**
- **Ms. Judith Peters – 118 Lawrence Blvd. E – Monitor for another month**
- **Mary Lager – 1118 Sixth St. West – Set sewer rate at 2000 gallons**
- **Doris Baker – 718 Hiawatha Drive E – Set sewer rate at 2000 gallons**
- **Heather Swain – 510 Phelps Avenue – Monitor for another month**
- **Joel Carlson – 718 Tenth Street East – Monitor for another month**
- **Eleanore Dick – 529 Twelfth Street East – Set sewer rate at 2000 gallons**
- **Denny & Anne Bergan – 913 Broadway Avenue – Monitor for another month**

**Stormwater Mapping Implementation Grant and Competitive Matching Grant:**

David Vosen presented information on the following grants:

- **Implementation Grant - \$10,000 – for Stormwater Mapping which can be used for staff time and engineering.**
- **Competitive Grant - \$10,000 – matching grant for sealing the old City well located at the Bike Shop. Estimated cost to seal the well is \$25,000.**

David reported the state is requiring the City to seal the old well and the MN Dept of Health will direct the City in how to seal the well. He stated the well is 12 feet in diameter 40 foot deep and has cement walls. It was dug approximately around 1910 and had a plunger type pump. When it was no longer used, it was filled in half way with sand and chunks of rock and cement. The State is requiring it be dug out and an impermeable layer be put in as it is sealed. The impermeable layer is to guard against contamination. David Vosen reported this is something the State is requiring the City to do, so it would be advantageous to apply for the matching grant.

**After discussion, Commissioners Wallerich and Schoen moved to approve applying for the \$10,000 Implementation Grant for Stormwater Mapping and also the \$10,000 Competitive Matching Grant to seal the old city well located at the Bike Shop. Adopted unanimously.**

**DIP Water Mains:** David Vosen reported an email was received from Mr. Tom Stordahl in reference to going from ductile iron pipe to pvc and it also referred to some Southeastern Minnesota Cities using pvc for water mains. This information was being brought forward for discussion. Commissioner Schoen asked what is more durable in which Mr. Vosen stated ductile iron pipe is more durable. It was stated pvc is cheaper and is about half the cost but installation will cost a little more due to having to get the right bedding and compaction down for pvc. David Vosen stated his concern is doing tracing on lines

and also has concerns with lines freezing. He felt unless a wire is inserted, it can't be traced and the wire can break causing problems. Commissioner Schmidt felt using pvc is a good idea and in reference to the pvc lines freezing, then they should be buried deeper. In the past, individuals have come to the commission to request pvc for services and it has been approved. David Vosen stated though for water mains it has always been iron for maintenance issues.

David Vosen stated Tom Stordahl reported both iron and pvc are going up 20-30% due to all pipe being made is being sent to China.

It was determined to table this issue.

**Water Tower Painting Bids:** David Vosen stated the bids are going to be opened on May 13<sup>th</sup> and he asked the Commission if they would consider holding a special meeting on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> to review the bids.

Commissioners Wallerich and Schoen moved to hold a Special Utilities Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 at City Hall to review bids for painting the water tower. Adopted unanimously.

**Water/Sewer Ordinance Amendments:** Tabled until next meeting.

**Other Business:** David Vosen reported he has incurred approximately \$4,500 of flood expenses due to the purchase of chemicals, pumps etc. He also stated once bills come in for utilities, the cost will go up more.

Commissioner Schmidt asked Dave if he had checked into Ron Prescher's assessments. Dave Vosen stated he did look into it and it appears no service was put into Ron Prescher's garage lot. Dave stated the project assessed every buildable lot so since Ron had two lots, he is being assessed twice. He stated all services were bored and when that lot needs service, it will get bored at the City's expense due to that lot has been assessed for that project. Dave Vosen has asked City Engineer, Bill Anderson, to look into this matter to check their notes. Dave Vosen stated he will go up to the property and look for services also.

**Having no other business, Commissioners Wallerich and Schoen moved to adjourn at 4:59 pm.**

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Schamaun, City Clerk