



MINUTES Water Board

4:00 PM - Tuesday, March 21, 2023
Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue

The Water Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 4:00 PM, at Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: John Bender, Amy Olson, John McIntosh, and Terry Chew
ABSENT: William Kling
STAFF PRESENT: Todd Steigerwaldt, Andy Smith, and Curt Huhndorf

CALL TO ORDER

Motion to approve the February 14th 2023 minutes and February 2023 payable invoices for \$1,454,072.25.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve the above referenced items. Steigerwaldt informed the board that he had filed a lien on the Broad and Main Development for an unpaid hookup fee and the meters installed in the new building at 1120 7th Avenue. Chew asked if the Mueller payment was for the fire hydrants. Steigerwaldt stated it was not. The Mueller payment was for water meters purchased. The fire hydrants have not been delivered yet.

Approved unanimously

Motion to receive and file the February 2023 revenue, expense and financial reports.

Moved by Bender, seconded by McIntosh, to approve above referenced items. Steigerwaldt noted there was nothing out of the ordinary to report this month.

Approved unanimously

Public hearing for the Well 11 Improvements Marion, Iowa.

Olson opened the public hearing at 4:06 pm and closed the hearing at 4:07 pm. Steigerwaldt noted there were no public comments received for this project.

Resolution #23-08 accepting bids and awarding contract to Shawver Well Company, Inc. for the Well 11 Improvement Project.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Olson, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated there were three bidders for this project. Shawver Well Company was the low bidder and they installed our last Silurian Well #10 as a subcontractor for Northway Well and Pump. Steigerwaldt shared a similar Silurian well was drilled for the town of Tiffin in 2021 and the cost to drill that well was similar to this bid price with the exception of a 5% increase for the last two years. Bender asked if there would be crop damage. Steigerwaldt

stated he has told the farmer about the project and he is okay with some crop damage. We will simply reduce our acreage rent accordingly.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, McIntosh, and Chew

Public hearing for the 2023 27th Street Water Main Relay Project Marion, Iowa.

Olson opened and closed the public hearing at 4:12 pm. Steigerwaldt stated there were no public comments submitted for this project.

Resolution #23-09 accepting bids and awarding contract to Rathje Construction Company, Inc. for the 2023 27th Street Water Main Relay Project.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Bender, to approved item referenced above. Steigerwaldt stated there were only two contractors that submitted bids for this project but 15 contractors pulled plans. The engineer's estimate was \$317,660.00. Rathje Construction was the low bid at \$279,710.00 or 12% below the engineer's estimate. The other contractor was \$98,128 higher than Rathje's bid. He recommended awarding the contract to Rathje Construction who has done multiple projects for us like this in the past. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, McIntosh, and Chew

Discussion regarding the proposed 5% water rate increases for FY 24 to be effective July 1, 2023.

Steigerwaldt shared a water rate increase scenario with the board. He stated Janice Lawrence ran a 5% increase as was approved with the FY24 budget to obtain approximately \$150,000 in additional revenue. It was also proposed to increase the bulk water rates and unmetered parks monthly flat fee by 5% as well. At the bottom of the proposal was a table that shows some actual accounts and what the financial impact would be to the customer. The board was agreeable to 5% rate increase proposal. Steigerwaldt also mentioned he received a letter from Cedar Rapids stating the Glenbrook Cove water rate was increasing by 7% starting on July 1, 2023. He recommended the board increase the water rate for this area the same and the board agreed.

Motion to approve Marion Water Department Early Separation Option Agreement for 2023.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Chew, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated he had a conversation with the city's health insurance consultant PDCM who stated the reference to COBRA insurance in section 4 of the agreement was not necessary so he removed this item as state law allows for retirees to remain on the department's health insurance program assuming they do not have insurance somewhere else and they pay the entire suggested monthly premium rate determined by the insurance carrier. Smith asked if this agreement was a one time deal. Steigerwaldt stated it was not. It would be reviewed and renewed by the board annually.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving fixed charges rate increases to be effective July 1, 2023.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Olson, to approve the item referenced above. Steigerwaldt presented several suggested rate increases for some fees and charges that the

department bills out. Bender asked if the \$200 tap fee covered our labor cost. Staff stated the fee was appropriate.

Approved unanimously

Motion accepting project completion and approving partial payment No. 18 to WRH, Inc. for \$134,948.46 for the Well 5 & 8 Water Treatment Plant.

Moved by Chew, seconded by McIntosh, to approve the above referenced items. Steigerwaldt stated the Iron Removal Plant is up and running and we are ready to accept the project as completed. We are retaining \$10,000 until we know the seeding takes this spring. The contractor is aware they may have to re-seed the site. Staff continues to test at the plant daily as now there are some new water quality challenges that staff is addressing. The filters are consuming the natural ammonia in the Jordan water. Staff has been in contact with DNR staff seeking advice and alternative solutions to remedy this issue. They have started to pre-chlorinate the water entering the filters and so far this procedure is working.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to Veenstra & Kim Inc. for engineering services for the Well 5 & 8 Water Treatment Project for \$597.00.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Chew, to approve item referenced above. Steigerwaldt stated the consultant is at 87.8% of the contracted amount.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment #1 to Veenstra & Kimm Inc. for engineering design services for Silurian Well 11 for \$3,833.00.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Olson, to approve item referenced above. Steigerwaldt stated the consultant was at 20.5% of the contract amount.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving annual financial pledge to the Uptown Marion organization.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Chew, to approve item referenced above. Steigerwaldt shared a letter that states the organizations purpose and all the programs and activities the Uptown Marion board has completed in 2022. He mentioned the board has supported this group at the \$500 level in past years.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, and Chew

Nays: McIntosh

Discussion regarding Field Operations Reports.

Smith reviewed with the board the monthly service reports and field activities for February 2023. He stated staff had 3 water main breaks in February. Crews also continue to remodel the older booster station at Site #5.

Secretary Report

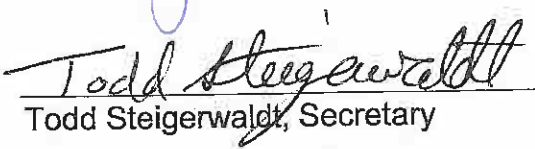
Steigerwaldt stated there were 9 building permits over \$50,000 in valuation pulled in February. He shared two thank you letters he received. One from Save CR Heritage organization for allowing them to salvage items from the former rental house before it was demolished and a thank you note was received from Linn Mar students who toured Site #7

with Steigerwaldt one afternoon. The board also discussed the Gazette newspaper article that shared information on Marion's water quality and its hardness challenges.

ADJOURN at 5:02 PM

The next Marion Water Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11th 2023 at 4:00 pm at 3050 5th Avenue Marion or on Zoom.



Amy Olson, Chairman

Todd Steigerwaldt, Secretary