



MINUTES Water Board

4:00 PM - Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue

The Water Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 4:00 PM, at Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: John Bender, Amy Olson, John McIntosh, William Kling, and Terry Chew

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Steigerwaldt, Andy Smith, and Curt Huhndorf

CALL TO ORDER

Public hearing for the Lucore Road Elevated Storage Tank Project.

Chew opened the public hearing for the above referenced item. Representatives from Caldwell Tanks, Inc. and Gerard Tank and Steel were present at the meeting and on ZOOM. Both companies' presented information on their companies abilities and existing projects completed. Board members and staff asked various questions to both companies regarding current work load, expected change orders if any, and their use of subcontractors for completing the tower project.

Motion to table approving Resolution 25-07 accepting bids and awarding contract to Gerard Tank & Steel, Inc. for the Lucore Road Elevated Storage Tank Project.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Kling, to table the above referenced Resolution 25-07. Upon learning about both companies, Chew recommended tabling this item until the board and staff had a chance to visit an existing project of the lowest bidder and further check on past project references. He suggested making the award at the April 8th board meeting. The other board members agreed.

Approved unanimously

Motion to approve the February 11th 2025 minutes and February 2025 payable invoices in the amount of \$1,724,547.16.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Olson, to approve the above referenced items. Steigerwaldt presented the February minutes and payables statement. Bender noted the extra overtime shown must have been from water main leaks occurring in February. Steigerwaldt stated that was the case. There were 7 main breaks last month.

Approved unanimously

Motion to receive and file the February 2025 revenue, expense and financial reports.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced reports. Steigerwaldt mentioned another CD matured at Community Saving Bank. He asked 6 local banks to submit their best CD rates and the best rate was with Community Saving Bank so he reinvested the money there for another 12 months.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving Resolution 25-08 approving and adopting final plans and specifications, notice of hearing and letting, notice to bidders, form of contract and cost estimate regarding the 2025 Grand Avenue Water Main Relay Project.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Olson, to approve the above referenced items. Steigerwaldt stated plans are being shared with the contractors. The engineer's estimate is \$312,626.00. Steigerwaldt explained there is 80' of right of way on Grand Avenue so relaying the new water main near the existing water main should be fairly easy. Bender asked what size of main was being installed. Steigerwaldt stated it would be an 8" water main.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, McIntosh, Kling, and Chew

Motion approving water main application for the Commons at English Glen 9th Addition to the city of Marion.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared the location of this subdivision which is located north of 29th Avenue between 35th Street and 44th Street. The developer is Robson Homes Inc of Cedar Rapids. There will be 22 new single-family lots in this addition.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to Veenstra & Kimm Inc. for professional services relating to the Lucore Road Elevated Storage Tank for \$4,182.00.

Moved by Chew, seconded by McIntosh, to approve item above. Steigerwaldt stated V&K are approaching 38% of their contracted amount.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving annual financial pledge to Uptown Marion Main Street.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Kling, to approve the above referenced item at a \$500 contribution level. Steigerwaldt stated the board has supported this group at a \$500 level over the years. This is a budgeted expense for the current fiscal year. Olson suggested a \$1,000 pledge. Bender and other members supported a \$500 financial pledge.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, Kling, and Chew

Nays: McIntosh

Discussion on future water rate increase to go into effect July 1, 2025.

Steigerwaldt shared the email from Janice Lawrence that explains the criteria she used to arrive at a proposed water revenue increase of approximately \$160,000 that was estimated for the fiscal year budget starting July 1, 2025. Steigerwaldt stated Janice did a great job summarizing how the rates were increased and what impacts that will have on various existing customers around town. He stated we will hold a public hearing on the

proposed rate increase at our June 10th meeting and then increase the water rates on July 1, 2025.

Field Operations Report -

Smith shared the February service report. 6 fire hydrants were sold last month. Nelson Electric began installing the VFD at Well #7. SCADA updates occurred at Well #6 and staff continued to work on the lead service line inventory. Bender asked about Silurian well pumpage. Smith stated they have not been pumping a lot of water from the Silurian wells lately as overall pumpage was down. They did start to pump from Silurian Well #8 towards the end of February.

Secretary Report

Steigerwaldt stated there were only 2 building permits over \$50,000 valuation submitted in February. He congratulated Brad Rose for passing his DNR Water Treatment 2 exam. Steigerwaldt shared a letter that Senator Joni Erst sent to the EPA regarding the financial impact the new Lead and Copper Rule would have on communities. Steigerwaldt also presented a proposal from the Shpigler Group that offered their services to evaluate the entire department and look for efficiencies and potential revenue sources. Steigerwaldt suggested waiting to see how the Waterloo Water Department fairs with Shpigler as they recently hired them. The board stated they were pleased on how efficient staff runs the department currently and praised staff to continue the good work.

Adjourned at 5:30 PM

The next Marion Water Board meeting to be held on April 8, 2025 at 4:00 PM at 3050 5th Avenue, Marion and on ZOOM.



Terry Chew, Chairman



Todd Steigerwaldt, Secretary