



MINUTES Water Board

4:00 PM - Tuesday, April 8, 2025
Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue

The Water Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Tuesday, April 8, 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

Motion to approve the March 11th 2025 minutes and March 2025 payable invoices in the amount of \$1,337,689.55.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Olson, to approve the above referenced items. Steigerwaldt presented the March minutes and payables statement.

Approved unanimously

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

Moved by Chew, seconded by Bender, to approve above referenced reports. Steigerwaldt mentioned

Approved unanimously

Public hearing for the Lucore Road Elevated Storage Tank Project.

Chew opened the public hearing for the above mentioned project at 4:06 pm. Representatives from Caldwell Tanks, Inc. spoke first restating their qualifications and expertise on designing and constructing elevated water towers. They were the lowest bidder in scope one of the bid which had a completion date of October 1, 2026. Nick Gerard with Gerard Tank and Steel, Inc. also spoke to the board regarding his company's abilities and experience to construct this elevated composite water tower. Gerard was the lowest bidder on Scope 2 of the bid with a completion date of October 1, 2027. Several board members asked some general questions to the representatives. Chew closed the public hearing at 4:13 pm.

Motion approving Resolution 25-11 accepting bids in scope 2, rejecting bids in scope 1, and awarding contract to Gerard Tank and Steel, Inc. for the Lucore Road Elevated Storage Tank Project.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Kling, to approve the above referenced item. Bender

stated he would like to see the tower completed in 2026. He stated the bids came in under the engineer's estimate and time is money. Both Chew and Kling stated the department savings of \$376,000 between the completion of the tower in 2027 versus 2026 was a lot of money to save and put towards other needed projects. McIntosh and Olson also agreed with them.

Approved by the following votes:

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

Presentation by Kara Bullerman, city attorney regarding public meeting protocols and law updates.

City attorney, Kara Bullerman, updated the board regarding open records laws and retention of emails and texts. She also reviewed the open meeting laws where board members are not allowed to reply all on emails pertaining to water department business and topics. Lastly, she clarified protocols during public meetings stating board members need to stick to the published agenda and not bring new items up during a meeting for discussion and/or take action on items that are not on the published agenda.

Public hearing for the 2025 Grand Avenue Water Main Relay Project.

Chew opened and closed the public hearing at 5:06 pm as there was no one in attendance to speak about the project. Steigerwaldt stated he didn't receive any phone calls or emails regarding this project either.

Motion approving Resolution 25-09 accepting bids and awarding contract to Abode Construction Inc. for the 2025 Grand Avenue Water Main Relay Project.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve the above resolution. Bender couldn't believe there were 10 contractors that submitted bids. Steigerwaldt stated the low bidder was Abode Construction Inc. from Marion. Seven bidders were below the engineer's estimate. The board asked if Abode has performed work for us in the past. Staff stated yes they had and they were capable of completing this project. Steigerwaldt stated they plan on beginning this project as early as next month. Bender asked if the road would be closed to relay the water main. Steigerwaldt stated there would be one street closure for about one week on Grand Avenue with a signed detour to tie new water main into the existing water main on the south side of Grand Avenue and Valley Park Drive. Otherwise Grand Avenue will remain open to local traffic.

Approved by the following votes:

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

Motion approving two payments to Veenstra & Kimm Inc. for professional services relating to the Lucore Road Elevated Storage Tank for a total amount of \$4,450.54.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Bender, to approve item above. Steigerwaldt stated V&K are approaching 41% of their contracted amount.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment #2 to Nelson Electric Co. for installation of VFD and electrical upgrades at 450 Echo Hill Road for \$17,249.42.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt

stated this is the second payment to Nelson for electrical upgrades at Site #7 where they are installing a VFD drive and other electrical upgrades for the purpose of blending the Jordan and Silurian aquifers. Northway Well and Pump will be pulling the Jordan well pump later this spring and setting a smaller pump.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to A-1 Insulation, LLC for replacing existing wet insulation in the new storage building at 101 8th Avenue for \$16,400.00.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Olson, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated the new storage building had wet and moldy insulation. This was primarily due to the propane heaters that were used to temporarily heat the building while work inside was being finished. Loecke Building Service, the prime contractor on the project, agreed to remove and replace the inside metal siding and give us full credit for the insulation that they installed. A-1 Insulation was hired to remove the wet insulation, kill the mold that was spreading, spray on a closed foam and then insulate the remaining voids in the walls. This additional insulation was above what the original contract called for in the specifications but will save heating costs in the long run. Steigerwaldt shared some photos of the before and after insulation installation.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving purchase of a 2024 Silverado 2500Hd Reg Cab LT 4x4 service truck for \$65,505.00.

Moved by Olson, seconded by McIntosh, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated the new service truck finally arrived. The board had approved purchase of this truck back in December 2022; however, there were multiple delays and canceled orders that were outside of the dealer's control. We were able to order a similar 2024 truck with Knapheide Service Body in May of 2023 as the original vehicle was no longer available. The new truck increased in price from the 2022 quote but still within the approved budget. It included some extra features the first truck did not have. Steigerwaldt stated the existing service truck has over 125,000 miles on it will be sold. Staff stated the truck color is dark gray but it changes color depending on the direction of the sun rays reflect off of it.

Approved unanimously

Motion to purchase a Am Defender from Brunkan Equipment for \$23,770.99.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Olson, to approve the above referenced item. Smith researched two different brands of side by side vehicles and preferred the Can-Am which also was the lowest bid. Both dealers stated they would reserve the vehicle and we can pay them after July 1, 2025. Smith stated there will be some minor additions to the vehicle like a winch for the front and different style tires. The board asked what color it would be. Smith stated the vehicle would be green.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving financial donation to the Marion Arts Festival.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Chew, to approve a financial pledge in the amount of \$100.00 to the above organization. Steigerwaldt stated last year the board agreed to financially support the Marion Arts Festival at the \$100 giving level. McIntosh asked the board what the Water Department gets for their donation to this organization. Steigerwaldt stated the festival brings in a lot of people to Marion that shop and eat. The department would also be listed on a sponsorship board.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, Kling, and Chew

Nays: McIntosh

Discussion on the temporary connection of two separate water service connections to public water main.

Steigerwaldt stated he was contacted by two different individuals to see if the board would allow a temporary water service to the two properties. 2449 Highway 13 is currently on a well and they are trying to sell their home but the potential buyer wants a new well or connection to city water. The board and staff were not in favor of a temporary 2" water service line installation. They would prefer a 6" water line be installed with fire hydrants along this frontage road. The board asked Steigerwaldt to contact the existing homes along this frontage road and see how many potential residents would connect to the new 6" water main.

The other property at 2620 Fields Drive is a vacant lot and the new owner would prefer to have city water versus drilling a new well. The board again felt it was not in our best interest to install a temporary 2" water line. They asked Steigerwaldt to prepare a cost estimate to install an 8" water main along Fields Drive.

Discussion on future water rate increase to go into effect July 1, 2025. (cont. from last month)

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. He stated that a public hearing will be held on the proposed rate increase at the June 10th meeting and then increase the water rates on July 1, 2025. The board had no discussion on this item.

Field Operations Report

Smith updated the board on field activities completed in March. Water main inspections occurred at the Commons of English Glen 8th and along Highway 13 to County Home Road. Staff worked on the lead service line inventory list and the consumer confidence report. Work continued on the VFD drive installation by Nelson Electric at Site #7. Well #4 suddenly died so Northway Well and Pump have pulled the pump and will begin acidizing the well and setting a new pump next month. Only one water main leak occurred in March at 1080 8th Street.

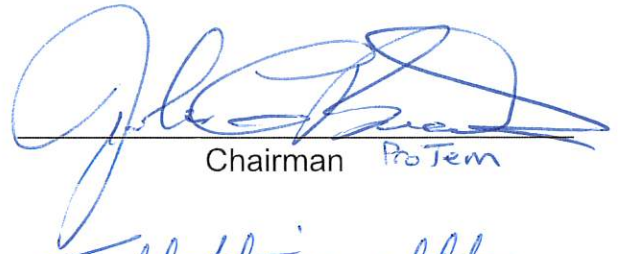
Bender asked if the new fire hydrants have arrived. Huhndorf stated they have not but we have locked in the prices. They are expected to arrive later this summer.

Secretary Report

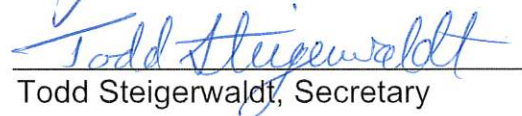
Steigerwaldt shared the March building permit report which had 19 permits pulled over \$50,000 in valuation. The building permits have picked up for the construction season.

Adjourned at 6:00 PM

The next Marion Water Board meeting to be held on May 13, 2025 at 4:00 PM at 3050 5th Avenue, Marion and on ZOOM.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to John P. Brown, written over a horizontal line.

Chairman Pro Tem

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Todd Steigerwaldt", written over a horizontal line.

Todd Steigerwaldt, Secretary