



APPROVED

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 17th, 2022

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: 2800 Ward Ave, La Crosse, WI 54601

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Commissioners: Kurt Knutson, Tim Ehler (Zoom), Robert Lynn, Town Administrator Christina Peterson, Public Works Director Terry Wright, Water Operator Dan Odeen, Town Treasurer Sara Jarr, Clerk Fortune Weaver (Zoom), John Thom - SEH, Randy Sanford - SEH, Torey Leonard - SEH

ATTENDANCE LIST: None

1. Call to Order at 12:57 p.m. by Chairperson Kurt Knutson.
2. **Minutes from 2/17/2022** Motion by Knutson, second by Lynn to approve meeting minutes from 3/17/2022. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Review and Approve Bills Payable** Motion by Knutson, second by Lynn to approve \$29,244.64 in open invoices, and \$44,852.13 in paid invoices. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Citizens' Concerns** None
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Arbor Hills Well Project
 - Odeen reported that the number of complaints of discolored water in Arbor Hills has increased since January. He has been in contact with SEH to assist in determining why. Odeen thought the issue may be due in part to Well #1 not being flushed after completion. On 01/13/22, Well #1 was shut down and flushed. Discolored water continued after flushing. 2 addresses on Briarwood Ave. (N2341, N2284), just past Fen Lockney Dr., have reported the most discoloration. Odeen is aware that N2284 Briarwood Ave. has a filtration system, but the resident reports the filters have been filling abnormally fast. N2341 and N2284 Briarwood are currently taking regular water samples for Odeen.
 - Report from SEH representatives. John Thom, Water Operations Specialist, reviewed samples obtained from Arbor Hills Well #1 and Well #2, 03/15/22-03/17/22. The results show that Iron in Well #2 is greater than 3ppm (limits of the instrumentation is 3ppm), the allowable limit is .3ppm. During construction, Well #2 had Iron levels of 0.095-0.240, the final read being 0.203. Thom also explained that the samples are trending to be more corrosive. In addition, chlorine levels are reading on the low end. The high Iron levels have drastic changed as there were no issues for 6 months.
 - With Thom's assistance, Public Works is implementing the following plan to help discern what is causing the high Iron levels in the Arbor Hills system:
 - o Public Works has already closed a valve at Heatherwood Pl. and Briarwood Ave. Another valve has been turned off ½ way at Briarwood Ave. and Fen Lockney Dr. to force water one way and slow flow. This may pinpoint a potential issue. Well #2 is also now leading the system.



- **Week 2:** Both wells will be placed on a 1-hour run time rotation. This will put Well #2 into service more than it has been, its readings will be recorded.

Week 3: 24-hour flush. Record readings every hour, on the hour. If needed, a 48-hour flush with readings will also be executed. If this test is unsuccessful, the possibility of a well collapse will have to be investigated.

- **Final Test:** Test rate of pumping, while eliminating the draw down factor (based on the data of previous tests). The target date to complete this test is the week of April 4th. Pump speed could be causing too much stir up in Well #2, finding a new pumping speed and adjusting accordingly could solve the Iron problem.

- After testing is complete, SEH suggests that Well #2 be shut down until what is causing the Iron problem is isolated and repaired.
- At next flushing, Thom is planning to be present. Also, SEH requests that Iron be tested every day at Well #2 and will provide testing kit if needed.

Lynn questioned why Well #1 also had high limits of iron. Per SEH, the limits are not considered a health risk (mcl) and are not at an enforceable limit (reportable offence). Flushing 3 times per year keeps the limit low/safe.

Peterson questioned if manganese would work. Thom explained that the level and age of water in the well would not work. She also asked if other metal testing would show potential problems, Sanford responded that it likely would not.

Odeen will prepare a letter to update all Arbor Hills residents on the upcoming test schedules and water condition, stressing that the water is safe. Town Hall staff will prepare and send.

- b. Olympic Builders Pay Application #20, \$48,162.02. Includes release of previously withheld retainage. Motion by Knutson, second by Ehler to repeal any previous approval to Pay Application #20. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Change Order #9 is pending, \$8,182.90, okay to pay this amount when ready.

6. New Business

- a. Mutual Assistance Agreement with Stoddard (Copy attached)
 - Motion by Knutson, second Lynn to approve a Water Utility Mutual Assistance Agreement with Stoddard. Motion carried unanimously. Sanitary Board requested that they be updated if changes are made on the agreement or if the Stoddard Water Operator changes.



7. Reports

a. Administrator

- Peterson questioned if a billing change or credit should occur for Arbor Hills customers, Q1. Jarr pointed out that the PSC would likely question a significant credit. Knutson declined making any billing changes.
- On 5/2/2022, Peterson, Chairman Candahl and an attorney will be meeting in Madison to discuss the sewer and boundary agreements. In the interim of not having a sewer agreement, and being under City ordinance, the City of La Crosse and WI-DNR have now confirmed that the Sanitary District can permit anyone able to tap into an existing main to do so without approval from the City. The DNR's view is when it issues a sewer main extension permit as part of a development, any parcel that can connect to the main is allowed to. The City of La Crosse previously communicated that any new connections would be denied until a new sewer agreement was in place.
- Peterson met with Mayor Reynolds on 3/16/22. The main topic of discussion was the boundary agreement. The sewer agreement is on hold pending a sewer capacity study.

b. Public Works

- Placing order for a new meter to read Iron, approximate cost is \$2,000.00
- Odeen and Wright have determined a better location as a testing site for Well #2 moving forward.
- Chlorine levels need to be higher, .08-1.0. When Thom from SEH was present, level was at .03., minimum is .02. Levels at need to be adjusted and have started to be turned up.
- Home inspections for mapping of the district's water and wastewater collection system continue. Only a few issues remain, several inspections still needed.

c. Chairperson/Commissioners

- Lynn questioned if the solution used by the State on our roads before a snow event is a risk to our watershed. Odeen explained that it is Calcium Chloride mixed with a vegetable bi product; it is a brine. The solution causes less salt to be used overall. Wright described the WI-DOT inspection process for salt/sand. He also mentioned that the Town uses salt and sand, using a brine is now being encouraged.
- Knutson reported that he enjoyed attending the 2022 WRWA conference. He also learned that Tanner Clements, road crew, is preparing to be a second water operator.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Knutson to adjourn at 2:35 p.m., second by Lynn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Jarr, Treasurer

Next Meeting
Thursday April 14th, at 4:30 p.m.