

South Sangamon Water Commission
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
November 15, 2021
Water Plant, 9199 Buckhart Road, Rochester IL

Commissioners:

Present: Cindy Morris, Jim Roth, Dave Johnson

Absent: none

Quorum: yes

Others Present:

Stephen Bivin & Laura VanProyen (SSWC), Max Middendorf (MECO Engineering), Randy Segatto (Barber, Segatto et al)

Proceedings:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by chairman, Jim Roth, and roll was taken.

Operating Report:

- Stephen Bivin presented the monthly report.

- Commissioner Roth reported hardness levels had been more stable this month.

- Commissioner Johnson stated Chatham had been flushing their mains.

Hydrants:

- Rather than preparing a written agreement outlining procedures and proper contact information for emergency use of Commission hydrants by local fire departments, which could be overlooked during an emergency situation or slow down response time for handling it, water plant staff would be painting and labeling our hydrants as schedules and weather allow. Max Middendorf would work with staff to prepare flags to be attached to hydrants east of Chatham giving the phone number to call in case of emergency use. Flags attached to hydrants west of Chatham would warn they were never to be used for fire suppression.

Engineering Report:

New Berlin Master Meter Project:

- Bivin reported the meter was installed; it would be about another week to complete the cellular system work.

- Middendorf presented the final pay application (#5) from Petersburg Plumbing and Excavating for approval.

MOTION by Roth, second by Morris to approve payment of final pay application #5, in the amount of \$4,423.00, to Petersburg Plumbing and Excavating.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes Johnson – yes Roth – yes

Motion carried.

Risk Resiliency Assessment:

- An assessment to identify possible risks or weaknesses throughout the water system was underway; such studies are required from time to time.

Public Comments:

- There were no public comments.

Attorney General Conference Call:

- Attorney Segatto gave a brief summary of the recent conference call with the Illinois Attorney General's office and the Illinois EPA.
- The current Commissioners were all new since this began in 2016.
- Some requests from EPA had gone unanswered and then COVID protocols hampered communications.
- The Commission now had a pretty well-developed outage plan.
- The draft CCA had been rejected by EPA; the Commission now needed to continue to work with them moving forward.
- The Attorney General's office assessed a fine of \$5,265.00. Segatto stated this was the lowest fine to which they would agree; he recommended the board approve acceptance. The fine would not be paid immediately, but following receipt of additional information.

MOTION by Roth, second by Morris, to authorize Randy Segatto to respond to the November 10, 2021, letter from the Attorney General's office approving payment of the \$5,265.00 fine at the appropriate time following additional correspondence from that office.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes Johnson – yes Roth – yes

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Morris, second by Roth to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2021 regular meeting as written.

Voice vote: Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Unaudited, draft financial reports for fiscal year 2022 to date, through October 31, 2021, had been distributed to all Commissioners for their information. There were no questions or discussion.
- Attorney Segatto would prepare an abatement ordinance for approval at the December regular meeting.
- A brief discussion began regarding an audit firm for the FY2022 audit and was tabled for further discussion at the December regular meeting.

Approval for Payment of Invoices:

- Commissioners received and discussed a list of payable items for approval totaling \$35,569.10. The treasurer explained this total was lower than usual mostly due to the early date of the November meeting; not all usual invoices had yet been received.

MOTION by Morris, second by Roth to approve payment of all invoices as listed.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes Johnson – yes Roth – yes

Motion carried.

Discuss Rates and Budget Projections for Fiscal Year 2023:

- Chairman Roth and Stephen Bivin had not yet met regarding upcoming Capital Improvement Project needs; this discussion was tabled until the December regular meeting.

Old Business

- Bivin reported the tractor/mower had not arrived yet.
- Commissioner Johnson had heard of a municipality offering 10% discounts on electric service for seniors and qualified customers who were out of work. He asked if this might be something to think about for water sales.
- There was some discussion. As a wholesale water provider, we do not make decisions about retail water rates except for the few customers tapped directly into our transmission mains.
- Bivin received an estimate from WesTech for installation of the filters in the amount of \$81,000.
- Commissioners agreed we should get competitive quotes. They authorized Middendorf to get bids from three other vendors, including performance and payment bonds.

New Business:

- Commissioners discussed calendar-year 2022 meeting dates.
- Other than January and February, when the third Mondays would be holidays, meetings would continue to be held on the third Monday of every month; in those two months the date would be moved to the third Tuesdays. All meetings would be at 5:30 p.m. at the water plant.
- Segatto would prepare a Resolution for approval at the December regular meeting.
- Laura VanProyen asked about 2021 required Harassment Avoidance Training which is required for all employees.
- Commissioners agreed to again provide the training materials available on the Illinois Human Resources website with certificates of completion to be turned in by the end of calendar-year 2021.
- Attorney Segatto discussed an increase in his hourly rate from \$180.00, which it had been since he was hired by the Commission in 2015, to \$205.00 effective January 1, 2022. A new engagement agreement would be provided for signature before this date.

MOTION by Johnson, second by Roth to approve an increase in hourly rate for legal services provided by Randy Segatto, of Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke and Cate, LLP to \$205.00 per hour effective January 1, 2022.

Roll call vote: Morris -- yes Johnson -- yes Roth -- yes

Motion carried.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the South Sangamon Water Commission will be held Monday, December 20, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at the water plant, 9199 Buckhart Road, Rochester, Illinois.

MOTION by Johnson, second by Roth to adjourn.

Voice vote: Motion carried.

- The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura VanProyen, Clerk