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Utilities Committee Meeting

July 9th, 2026, at 5:00pm

MINUTES

- 1. Call to order:** John Hurtley called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.
- 2. Roll call:** Members present were John Hurtley, Mike Michaud, Dale Fayerweather, Greg Sandstrom. Kelsey Gilmore was Absent. Also present, Ron Goeldner and Dave Vosen.
- 3. Public Comments:** Jeremy Marcks wanted to discuss getting a reduction in a big water bill he received as a result of a water leak at his mobile home park. He stated there were four big leaks under one mobile home. He did not find out about the problem until he received his water bill in April. All that leaked water did not go to the sewer plant. There are multiple trailers on his one water meter. There was some discussion regarding why changing to individual meters for each mobile home is not allowed under state regulations. Some discussion about installing a new meter with remote reading capability and how he could get remote access to read the meter more frequently. It was recognized that whatever amount of water leaked here, it did not go to the treatment plant. It was stated that there is no precedent for changing a water bill because of a water leak. A change in this case, to this bill, would open the door to anyone requesting a bill change, even for just a toilet tank leak. At this time there is no established procedure for how to calculate the amount of any such bill reduction. John suggested that Jeremy put together more written information for this committee about his leak such as pictures of a leak from the plumber, possibly a statement from the Plumber saying this was the likely cause of his extensive water usage, and information regarding what he feels the dollar amount of the reduction should be. John stated that this committee does not have the authority to make a decision on this matter, but it could make a finding to the Village board for their consideration.
- 4. Review and approval of 6-4-26 meeting minutes:** A motion made by Dale Fayerweather, seconded by Greg Sandstrom to accept meeting minutes. Motion passes all in favor.
- 5. Utility Plant Staff Update/Report:** Dave Vosen presented the report. New Meter installs have been slowing down due to vacations and personal time off. Ron will

be taking some exams next week for his water and wastewater licenses. The village received a consent order from the DNR regarding the need to install future corrosion control.

We are monitoring the pH in the system at multiple locations now. We are putting in a request for a six-month, up to six months monitoring plan that we're sending to the DNR.

The Consumer Confidence Report was submitted and posted. The water meters are read for the second quarter, finished it up today. We did install the new chlorine pump at well three today. At well two we still need that packing gland replaced, it is something we should be addressing at some point.

Sewer collection system has been going good. We haven't had any backups. There are a couple homes that are having to fix some of their sewer lines. It's their own private line, so we'll just monitor it and make sure it's done proper.

At the treatment plant, the new intake screen has been ordered, it will be January before we see that get put in. The sludge blower is working again. The SCADA company was able to remotely get onto our system and get it into the automatic mode. There were some start up issues; they had to change the programming to get the communications working.

The new wasting valve has been ordered. Hoping in the next few weeks we'll get that put in and we can get that into the automatic mode. That'll help a lot at that point.

We had to get a new refrigerator for the effluent sampler. The effluent sampler is having some issues, so we'll have to address those in the future.

Mixer in the equalizing tank failed. Pulled it up, it was full of rags. We were getting ready to put it back in and the cable came unattached and the mixer fell into the tank. We had to empty the tank. Found out the drain system doesn't work, so we ended up having to pump it out. Found out there was two feet of sand in there, so we had to get that vacuumed out. It turned into a job. Fortunately, the guy who was coming in to do the sludge blower had his crane so he could pull that mixer out of there, so we didn't have to actually get in there again and do it ourselves. It's all working now, so that's good to know. Unfortunately, this treatment plant was not designed with a grit removal system, which is unfortunate. Not that I'm a big fan of them, but they do take a lot of sand out of the system.

The raw sewage pumps one and two were plugged a few weeks ago. We pulled a lot of stuff out of number one. Piece of plastic came out of there, part of the screen that we're replacing. We did have to change some of the plumbing on the pump because they piped it all in, where you couldn't take the pump apart. So, it's all now able to come apart.

We're keeping busy. Regarding the DO meters, I'm looking for another place where we can get a DO meter and check it against ours. Also doing locates, doing meter readings.

Our phosphorus effluent has gone up. We probably dropped about a third of the amount of Alum we were feeding before. We will see where we're at here regarding phosphorous. Haven't got the June report done yet, we were carrying a phosphorus of 0.2 parts per million. I think my last test was 0.5, we'll see what that uses for our trading credits.

6. Discussion/Actions on Water System Issues: Report by Dave Vosen

- a. **Water Meter bill errors update and discussion:** Mike gave the billing errors report. We're still working on trying to get the three formal complaints settled with the Public Service Commission. One of them has an amenable solution figured out. We're expecting that we can put that one to rest. Can't say much more about that one until we get the final closure with the Public Service Commission. The PSC is saying we can only recover up to two years' worth of prior usage. There's a state law around that. So, the real challenge is to try to calculate how many gallons two years prior usage is, given that the meters weren't read. We're using an averaging method, long-term averaging, to come up with a monthly usage number that the PSC can approve.
- b. **Update on DNR requirement regarding PH control:** The DNR, wants us to set a PH control point for the water distribution system at 7.5. They have requested us to put in the corrosion control system if the system needs it, we are proposing that we do extended PH distribution system sampling and hopefully it will show that we don't need to install this system.
- c. **Backflow prevention devices inspection update:** No new information on Cross connection control.
- d. **Update on chlorine pump upgrade:** The new Chlorine pump has been installed at well #3.
- e. **Update on search for water sample locations:** No change since last report. Still looking for more residential participants.

7. Discussion / Action on Wastewater Treatment Plant Issues: Reports by Dave Vosen

- a. **Update on bypass gate, bar screen, and conveyor status:** Nothing's changed, we think we're into January for a delivery date, install date, somewhere in that area. We are trying to move that ship date earlier.

- b. **Update on dissolved oxygen meter replacement:** We are calling around to Durand or Alma and see if one of those communities has one we can just borrow for a few hours, to test it against ours.
- c. **Update on blower repair:** The blower got repaired. We thought it was the motor, found out both the motor and the blower were both bad. Got them fixed, put in place, and that's when we had to get that VFD that wasn't running them reprogrammed so they could work into the automatic mode. It is all up and running now, so we're good to go there. The old blower is at the contractor's shop, still investigating repair options.
- d. **Waste Valve replacement quote:** The new valve has been ordered, hopefully in a few weeks here it will come in and get it installed. They said it's on the shelf.
- e. **Sampler repair replacement:** The refrigerator unit went out in the effluent sampler, we purchased an expensive apartment refrigerator for a couple hundred dollars, punched a hole in it, put the sampler outside and are operating that way. It's not a solution in the wintertime because the line will freeze in the wintertime. We are going to have to get another sampler. We have a quote from Hawk for \$4,100. I did get a second one from ISCO, but that one is not able to pump in flow proportion, and that is required in our permit to have a flow proportioned sampler. We need to get it ordered before the weather changes. Dave indicated he still needs permission to place an order for the \$4,100 sampler in time to have it working before cold weather hits.

8. Discussion/action on project list and project financing: John stated that not much has changed on these lists. He made one little update to the wastewater side indicating that the wastewater valve is in process, and replacement is on order. Other than that, it's all the same.

The sludge blower #2 item, we are still trying to determine if the old blower is repairable as a spare. The sludge blower motor was rebuilt. Yeah, it was just bearings and the seal. There is a price change on number 10. It went down a little, it goes to nine thousand. Dave stated that the primary clarifier inspection is something we hope to do in the fall when the flows go down a little more.

Water system cost tracker, the new water meters item, we need more research on the cost details, or if that's the right number of meters. We have about 525 accounts, and we purchased 300 meters so far, so it puts us close to the right number. At some point when all the meters are done, you're still going to have to buy a few meters every year just for new construction or as they fail or whatever.

Number seven, the Chlorine pump project is complete. We have purchased both pumps, one still coming. The DNR engineering review is also complete.

On number eight, we still need to find a contractor to do the work. We will contact

the people who did the work on the WWTP generator to get them to estimate what it will cost on the portable generator. would cost to have them go through that. If it's just the changing oil and radiator fluid, whatever, they probably do all that even though it's a different brand.

Regarding #10, the two well houses, Dave suggested that's something we probably want to discuss here next month about whether we're going to do any repairs on the buildings as far as making them a little more energy efficient before winter gets here. Dave is not sure we have adequate heat. We just have the electric hanging units. Well one and three has got a basic electric wall mount heater attached to the wall. At Well number Two, we just have plug-in baseboard heaters.

At Well Three, most of the what needs to be fixed is probably do a roof. Get all the bats and birds out of there and seal it up a little bit maybe. Also close up the windows or just put some insulation in there to try to help it as much as we can but might as well just basically board it up. Aaron has tried to button it up a little bit, but there's big holes in it again. I don't even know if there's insulation up in the roof area. Good chance there's not.

9. Set the next meeting date. The next meeting date will be Wednesday August 5th at 5 pm.

10. Adjournment. Dale Fayerweather made a motion to adjourn, and Greg Sandstrom seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Mike Michaud