

The regular monthly meeting of the Marion Water Department's Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:09 PM, on May 11, 2021, through a virtual meeting held on Zoom. Trustee William Kling attended the meeting in person while John McIntosh, Greg Hapgood and John Bender participated through Zoom. Chairman Bender called the meeting to order. Other people attending the meeting included Todd Steigerwaldt, Board Secretary, Andy Smith, Operations Supervisor, and Curt Huhndorf, Distribution Foreman.

Motion by Kling, seconded by Hapgood to approve the April minutes and April disbursements in the amount of \$1,150,578.49 and fund balance report. Steigerwaldt stated the auditor no longer requires the board members to individually sign the monthly expenditure report. This can be approved by approving the motion and including the total amount of expenditures on the agenda and in the minutes. This will save time each month having to collect signatures from each board member. Bender noted that there ended up being three payrolls in the month of April. Vote: all Ayes (4-0)

Chairman Bender opened the Public Hearing at 4:12 PM for the proposed water rate increase for the City of Marion, Iowa to be effective July 1, 2021. Bender asked Steigerwaldt if there were any citizens present on Zoom currently or if he had received correspondence from anyone regarding the proposed rate increases that were published in the paper. Steigerwaldt stated nobody else was on the Zoom meeting besides the board members and he received no correspondence from anyone regarding the proposed water rate increases. Bender closed the Public Hearing at 4:13 PM.

Motion by McIntosh, seconded by Hapgood approving Resolution 21-14 increasing water rates per proposal #2 as published in the Marion Times and reviewed at the April 13th Water Board meeting. Bender asked the board if they had any further comments or questions. Bender stated the fourth-rate proposal option suggested by Kling at the April 13th meeting seemed too aggressive. Kling agreed. They were satisfied with rate increase proposal number two. Roll Call Vote: all Ayes (4-0)

Motion by McIntosh, seconded by Kling accepting the 2021 Marion Boulevard Water Main Relay Project and approving payment to Rathje Construction for \$69,593.40. Hapgood asked about the location of this water main project. Steigerwaldt stated it was along Marion Boulevard, north of the McDonald's and under the former railroad crossing abutment that was removed last year. He stated the existing main was very old and would conflict with the future pedestrian bridge abutment. Vote: all Ayes (4-0)

Motion by Bender, seconded by Kling, approving payment to the City of Marion for the Central Corridor Improvement Project, Phase 3 for \$48,898.00. Steigerwaldt stated the board accepted this phase of the project at the December 2020 board meeting. The city has now finalized the quantities and determined the water main improvement final costs associated with this project. Bender noted that this project started several years ago. Steigerwaldt told the board the contractor was Abode Construction from Marion. Vote: all Ayes (4-0)

Motion by McIntosh, seconded by Kling approving partial payment #1 to Utility Service Company for \$112,123.75 for the Lindale Elevated Water Tower Recoating Project. Steigerwaldt explained to the board that the contractor has finally submitted the first partial payment request for this project which was started back in 2015. He stated staff has identified multiple painting defects that need to be addressed. The contractor has rescheduled the final inspection for the tower four times so far this year. The tower will be pressure washed first starting the week of June 14th and then staff, the consultant and

the contractor will inspect and identify the corrective measures needed to address the current paint failures. Steigerwaldt mentioned there is still over \$225,000 being withheld from the contractor which is more than enough to cover the anticipated repair costs. The board was agreeable to pay partial payment #1 but no additional payments until both parties agree to the repair methods and areas and the repairs are completed. Vote: all Ayes (4-0)

Motion by McIntosh, seconded by Hapgood approving payment to Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. for design work on the Well #5 and #8 Iron Removal Plant for \$1,747.34 per approved contract. Bender asked if there is enough money left on the contract for inspection and review of the new plant. Steigerwaldt stated there was over \$45,000 remaining on the contract. Vote: all Ayes (4-0)

Motion by McIntosh, seconded by Kling approving Resolution 21-15 amending the depository amounts at financial institutions in Linn County. Steigerwaldt told the board that earlier in the month our funds at Farmers State Bank exceeded the former depository limit of \$5.5 million but with the next check run this amount would fall below the \$5.5 million threshold. To avoid a potential audit finding by our auditor he is increasing the total amount at Farmers State Bank to \$6.5 million. With the new iron removal plant beginning construction soon he does not see the need to increase the amount any further or at any other institution as the department will have plenty of expenses in the coming year to keep the bank balance below the new threshold limit. Steigerwaldt also mentioned to the board that he researched some CD opportunities, but they were not worth tying up our money as they were paying approximately the same interest rate as we are getting in the Hi-Fi money market account. Vote: Roll Call Vote: all Ayes (4-0)

Steigerwaldt updated the board on the potential land purchase along Lucore Road. He stated he was attending a Park Board meeting on May 12th to share with them the opportunity to retain a portion of this acreage for a future City Park. The Water Department only needs approximately 3 acres for a future elevated water tower in this area. It would be easier to buy the 7.54-acre parcel outright with the City rather than annex the property and have the additional cost of a final plat and surveyor involved. He stated the Parks Department and Water Department could both utilize the existing machine shed that is on the property. The future owner is waiting on the septic system report before they close on the property. After the closing happens, Steigerwaldt will get the parcel appraised and then begin negotiations with the new owner. Both the police and fire departments are interested in practicing on the existing house. Kling asked if the city does not want the additional land could we sell it off. Steigerwaldt stated that we could eventually finally plat the parcel and sell off the remaining land to a developer. There would be an agreement drafted with the city that would spell out these details.

Steigerwaldt updated the board on the field activities. Service Department: remote read meters installed on 23 accounts; 6,298-meter reads; 4 straight meters to radio; 117 tag orders; 1,532 locates and 93 service calls.

Steigerwaldt stated the annual fire hydrant flush program was completed in 14 days. Several fire hydrants were damaged and need to be repaired. Northway Well and Pump set the pump and motor at Well #6. The well ran for 6 hours on Friday, April 30th but then broke down on Monday May 3rd. Staff has contact Janda Motor Services to see why the motor blew up. Janda is expediting the repair as we need this plant back online soon as water demand is increasing with the warmer weather.

The Distribution staff completed all the leak hole repairs from last winter and cleaned up Merrill Gardens. They also repaired some water valves and hydro-seeded the new office yard. Daily inspections occurred on the new water main being installed by private contractors.

April gallons pumped: 95,233,000


Secretary Report –

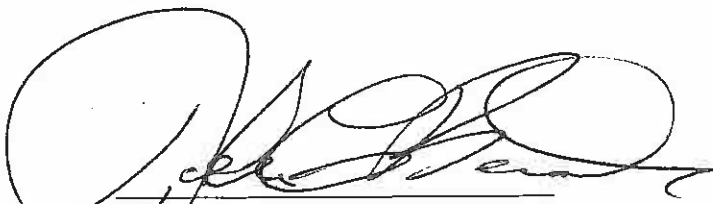
Steigerwaldt informed the board there were 33 building permits issued in March over a \$50,000 valuation. There were 17 single-family permits and 6 new commercial building permits pulled.

A short discussion occurred regarding the reopening of the Water Department office to the public. Steigerwaldt stated the last he heard City Hall was going to be fully open to the public on July 6th. The board talked about being open to the public by appointment only and/or for only limited hours. No decision was made as the newest board member, Amy Olson, was unable to attend the meeting. Steigerwaldt anticipates the board deciding at the June board meeting.

The next regular monthly board meeting was set for 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 15th, 2021. The meeting will be another virtual Zoom meeting, but board members may attend in person if they desire.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.


Todd Steigerwaldt
Secretary


John C. Bender
Chairman