



MINUTES

Water Board

4:00 PM - Tuesday, April 12, 2022
Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue

The Water Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 4:00 PM, at Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: John Bender, Amy Olson, John McIntosh, and Terry Chew

ABSENT: William Kling

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Steigerwaldt and Curt Huhndorf

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

REGULAR AGENDA

Presentation from MEDCO President, Nick Glew, on past accomplishments and future projects in the works for MEDCO.

Mr. Glew reviewed with the board last year's accomplishment and future projects in the works at the Marion Economic Development Park Additions.

Motion to approve the March 8th 2022 minutes and March 2022 payable invoices in the amount of \$1,883,979.17.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve items referenced above. Bender asked about the double payments this month to WRH. Inc. Steigerwaldt stated they didn't submit a January invoice in time for the February board meeting so a double payment was in March.

Approved unanimously

Motion to receive and file March 2022 revenue, expense and financial reports.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Olson, to receive and file the above referenced items. Steigerwaldt noted that our overall fund balance dipped below the \$8 million total at the end of March as there were multiple large project payments that were paid. He stated we should be back above the \$8 million balance amount next month.

Approved unanimously

Motion to approve Water Main Application in the Marion Aircom Park 1st and 2nd Addition to Marion.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve the reference item above. Steigerwaldt stated this addition is located just east of the Marion Airport. The developer is Genesis Equities LLC, aka Jeff Witter of Marion. There are 14 commercial lots planned for phase one. Commercial condo units are being targeted for this area as well as commercial airplane hangers. Bender stated the site layout map was not viewable and asked that it be shared with the board members after the meeting. Steigerwaldt stated he would and he shared the street layout with Chew and McIntosh who were present at the meeting.

Approved unanimously

Discussion on future water rate increase anticipated for July 1st 2022.

Steigerwaldt reviewed the proposed water rate increase for FY23 that was previously shared with the board at the March 8th board meeting. Steigerwaldt added that Cedar Rapids is planning a 5.5% increase for the water Marion purchases for the Glenbrook Cove subdivisions. He recommended that the water rate for this area that Marion Water bills for also increase by 5.5%. The board members agreed. Steigerwaldt clarified that the proposed rate increase would only impact the multi-family units and senior living facilities(nursing homes) that have multiple units but served by one master meter. This would assist in evening out the cost of serving water more fairly between the residential customers and customers served by a master meter whom currently are receiving a better deal on water than residential customers.

Bender asked about getting the notice out to the customers. Steigerwaldt stated it would be published in the Gazette and on the City's website. There will also be an article in the Marion Messenger that goes to all residents in early May.

Motion setting public hearing for water rate increase on May 10th 2022.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Bender, to approve setting the public hearing date for May 10th 2022 for the proposed water rate increase that would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Approved unanimously

Motion to approve payment to Robison Construction for repair of white cold storage building at 101 8th Avenue for \$41,305.00 from Derecho storm event.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve the above referenced invoice. Robison Construction finally invoiced for the repair work done on the white cold storage building at the main shop from the Derecho storm event. Steigerwaldt stated he will now submit the final repair costs to the insurance company for reimbursement.

Approved unanimously

Motion amending contract with the Iowa Geological Survey and University of Iowa to include geophysical exploration of newly acquired land at 6301 Lucore Road, Marion.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Olson, to amending contract with the Iowa Geological Survey to study our new land off Lucore Road for a potential Silurian Aquifer Well. The increased cost for the study at Lucore Road site is \$2,885. They completed the physical study on April 5th. Steigerwaldt shared their initial results of their initial study with the board which showed good potential for a new water source at the Fernow Road site. Steigerwaldt expected the full report to be completed and shared with the board at the May 10th board meeting.

Approved unanimously

Motion to approve partial payment #10 to WRH, Inc. for the Well 5 & 8 Water Treatment Plant for \$181,253.49.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated work progresses on the site. A new job superintendent has started for WRH. The filter media has arrived and is being placed in the new filters. They have notified us that they are experiencing some supply issue delays. Some items will not arrive until mid-July. The project completion date is June 1, 2022. They are putting pressure on the suppliers and are attempting to complete as much of the project as they can by the completion date. Steigerwaldt shared recent photos of the buildings and new filters. Bender asked about the estimated project completion percentage. Steigerwaldt stated they were 78% completed.

Approved unanimously

Motion to approve payment to Veenstra & Kimm Inc. for work associated with the Well 5 & 8 Water Treatment Plant Project for \$1,952.00.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Olson, to approve item above. Steigerwaldt stated they are at 85.1% of their approved contracted amount.

Approved unanimously

Discussion regarding the Field Operations Report.

Steigerwaldt updated the board on the March field activities report and status of the Well 5 & 8 Iron Removal Plant Project. He mentioned staff also rebuilt the booster pump #2 at Site #7 in March. Bender asked how many water main leaks there were over the winter. Steigerwaldt stated there were 13 leaks.

Discussion regarding the Secretary's Report.

- **March Building Report**
- **Thank you letter from Marion Leadership in Action**
- **National Community Survey Results from Marion Residents - from Amber Bisinger, Communications Director, City of Marion**

Steigerwaldt shared the March building report numbers and a thank you letter from the Marion Leadership in Action group. He also highlighted the results of the recent community survey done by NCS. The board noted that the water utility had a lower than normal ranking which Steigerwaldt stated has been consistent with previous surveys. He noted that finishing construction on the \$2.87 million iron removal plant will hopefully increase percentage points on the next survey's results.

Steigerwaldt also mentioned that he will have a contract from Anderson-Bogert next month for the 40 acre parcel split on the new land off Lucore Road. The survey will not be completed until late summer or fall.

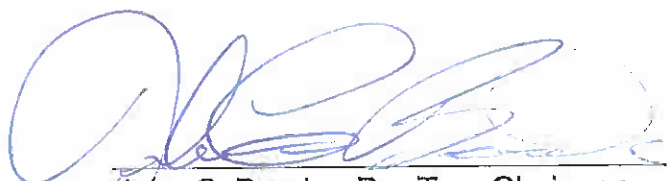
He also mentioned that he had gotten word that our New World billing and ERP software announced publicly that they will no longer be actively looking for new customers. Another larger software company called Tyler Technology owns them. Steigerwaldt and staff will keep the board informed on this news as it could mean switching to new software in the

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future if support becomes lacking and no additional features/fixes are available to enhance the current utility billing software.

Steigerwaldt informed the board that he has been contacted by local builders about switching from copper water service lines to plastic lines due to the cost increases in the copper lines. Huhndorf mentioned even the quality of the copper line is becoming an issue. Additional comments and questions were made regarding the possible switch to plastic lines including the need for tracer wire and additional inspection for plastic water service lines. Steigerwaldt stated staff will look into possible options and bring it back to the board for further discussion at a future meeting.

ADJOURN



John C. Bender, Pro-Tem Chairman



Todd Steigerwaldt, Secretary