



MINUTES Water Board

4:00 PM - Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue

The Water Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 4:00 PM, at Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Steigerwaldt, Andy Smith, and Curt Huhndorf

CALL TO ORDER

Motion to approve the April 11th 2023 minutes and April 2023 payable invoices for \$1,328,007.61.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve items referenced above. There was no discussion on these items.

Approved unanimously

Motion to receive and file the April 2023 revenue, expense and financial reports.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced items. Bender commented that our bank account has a healthy balance. Steigerwaldt agreed but also reminded the board that there are multiple capital improvement projects that will start soon which will lower our bank account over the next fiscal year.

Approved unanimously

Public Hearing - Water Rate Increase

Olson opened the public hearing at 4:13 pm on the future water rate increases for both Public Water Supply permits ID #5751035 (Marion customers) and ID #5751040 (Glenbrook Cove Subdivision area) to go into effect July 1, 2023. Steigerwaldt told the board he received no written or oral questions regarding the proposed rate increases and he had published the proposed rate increase in many communication outlets. Olson closed the public hearing at 4:14 pm.

Resolution 23-12 approving water rate increases for both Public Water Supply permits ID #5751035 (Marion customers) and ID #5751040 (Glenbrook Cove Subdivision area) to go into effect July 1st 2023.

Moved by Kling, seconded by McIntosh, to approve item referenced above. Olson stated the board has discussed and reviewed the proposed rate increase at the last several board

meetings and asked if any board member had any additional questions. The board members agreed with the proposed rate increases.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, Kling, McIntosh, and Chew

Motion approving water main application for Silver Ridge Estates 1st Addition to the city of Marion.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Olson, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared the location of this addition which is located on the west side of Alburnett Road across from the Linn Mar Oak Ridge middle school. The developer is Kent Backen with Integrity Custom Homes, Inc. of Marion. There are 18 single-family lots planned with this addition. Sanitary sewer was previously installed across this property to serve Mr. Backen's other subdivision called Silver Rock Estates which has accesses off of Echo Hill Road. Bender asked about any future widening or improvement to Alburnett Road. Steigerwaldt stated there were no official plans that he was aware of only that when a developer builds along Alburnett Road then he is responsible for improvement adjacent to the development like storm sewer, trails/sidewalks etc.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving water main application for the Echo Ridge Estates 5th Addition to the city of Marion.

Moved by Bender, seconded by McIntosh, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared the location of this subdivision which is located north of Echo Hill Road and west of Alburnett Road. The developer is Kent Backen with Integrity Custom Homes, Inc. of Marion. There are 22 single family lots planned for with this addition. They plan on breaking ground this fall after the crops are out. He mentioned this is the edge of our development area until sewer is extended under Echo Hill Road by the developer.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to National Wash Authority, LLC for washing two elevated water towers and one ground storage tank for \$37,400.00.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Kling, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt told the board this contractor washed the 0.5 MG elevated water tower by our office, the 1 MG elevated water tower at 35th Street and 35th Avenue and the 1 MG concrete ground storage tank at 450 Echo Hill Road. They started on Monday, April 24th and finished late on Wednesday, April 26th. They washed one structure each day. He also showed the board the before and after photos of the tanks.

Approved unanimously

Motion to receive and file Consumer Confidence Reports for Marion and Glenbrook Cove Residents.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced items. Steigerwaldt stated the DNR approved CCR reports and they have been shared with customers via website, public buildings, and hand delivered to retirement and housing complexes.

Approved unanimously

Motion to pay final invoice (retainage) to WHR Inc. for Well 5 & 8 Water Treatment Plant for \$10,000.00.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated this is the final payment of retainage money owed for the above project. They came back twice to hydroseed the site this spring. There is a two year warranty for this project.
Approved unanimously

Motion approving the renewal of a contract with Wellmark Blue Cross Blue shield related to health insurance for July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023 and following the city's employee monthly cost share program.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated last week, the Marion city council approved the renewal of the city's Wellmark health insurance plan for an additional six months. The employee benefits did not change but there will be an increase in the employee's monthly contribution rates beginning July 1, 2023. Single health plan will increase to \$92.07 (\$10.13 increase) and family monthly employee premium will increase to \$230.16 (\$25.33 increase). The board was agreeable with following the city's proposed premiums increases. Steigerwaldt also noted the dental buy up plan will also have an increase of \$1.67 per month for single and \$7.21 per month for family dental if the employees have selected this buy up dental option. There will be a short open enrollment period for employees to opt in or out of the dental buy up options. Employees can also choose to participate in the city's Wellness program to receive \$30 off their monthly premium and an additional \$15 off if their spouse participates in the Wellness program.

Steigerwaldt mentioned the city is working with a consultant to explore a high deductible health care plan option for next year's renewal in January 2024. Steigerwaldt will provide more information on this option once more information is gathered from the consultant. Kling stated he was familiar with this type of health care plan.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment #1 to Veenstra & Kim Inc. for general engineering services for the Well 11 for \$275.00.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Olson, to approve item referenced above. Steigerwaldt stated the contractor has not scheduled a preconstruction meeting yet.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment #1 to Veenstra & Kimm Inc. for general engineering services for Well 4 GSR Painting and Repair for \$1,532.59.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Bender, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt state they are at 41.8% of their contracted amount. He included some photos of the inside of the 1 MG tank that needs repair work done per the existing contract. He also mentioned we were going to add a new roof vent which will be done via a future change order. The contractor is expecting to start in early June.

Approved unanimously

Discussion regarding Field Operations Reports.

Smith reviewed with the board the monthly service reports and field activities for April 2023. Crews finished the remodeling work on the older booster station at Site #5 and the annual hydrant flushing program was completed. He also told the board that the #5 well will need to be pulled soon as pumping volume is noticeably down from 900 gpm to 600 gpm.

Secretary Report

Draft

Steigerwaldt shared with the board a draft Cedar Rapids and Marion Grow Study report for the northwest area of town. He stated close to 1000 people attended the City Showcase on April 29th at the YMCA where he hosted a water department booth and handed out tap water and other general water information. He shared a draft concept of a future aquatic park location and layout with the board members. He also showed them a Google analytics map showing how many people viewed the new GIS fire hydrant flushing map which was new this year and hosted on the city website. He stated the city received a \$150,000 REAP grant for the Lucore Road tower site and future park which they promptly reimbursed the Water Department for a portion of the land purchase. He showed a picture of the old broken lawn mower that was left on the Lucore Road site which an employee asked to have to try and fix up for a go-cart. The board was fine with him taking it as it would cost the department to dispose of it any way. Finally Steigerwaldt shared the April building permits which had 13 permits pulled over a \$50,000 valuation.

Adjourned at 5:13 pm.

The next Water Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13th 2023 at 4:00 PM at 3050 5th Avenue, Marion and on ZOOM.



William A. Kling, Chairperson



Todd Steigerwaldt, Secretary