



# MINUTES

## Water Board

4:00 PM - Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue

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The Water Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 4:00 PM, at Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT: John Bender

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

### CALL TO ORDER

#### **Motion to approve the September 12th 2023 minutes and September 2023 payable invoices for \$1,720,677.30.**

Moved by Chew, seconded by Olson, Steigerwaldt shared with the board that there were 3 payroll periods included in the salaries and overtime for the employees on the payables report.

Approved unanimously

#### **Motion to receive and file the September 2023 revenue, expense and financial reports.**

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Olson, to approve the above referenced items. Chew inquired about the gross water revenue received to date. Steigerwaldt pulled up the September revenue report and showed everyone what the water revenue was to date. It was up mainly due to the hot summer months and people watering. The board also inquired about the city's enterprise fund total revenues. Steigerwaldt shared that report as well which for FY23 was just over \$19.8 million collected for all city enterprise funds.

Approved unanimously

#### **Motion to receive and file quarterly bad debt report.**

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared the quarterly bad debt report. He stated it is higher than normal as it was decided to write off several larger debt amounts instead of carrying them on the books. The Eagle View Partners and DCI Group are for the Broad and Main project on 7th Avenue. A lien has been filed on the property. We will eventually get our money once the remaining lot sells. The SpeedConnect bill has been sent to a collection agency for the outstanding antenna lease payment. Steigerwaldt is doubtful we will ever get this payment.

Approved unanimously

**Motion to approve Resolution 23-19 accepting improvements and extensions of water main for Rookwood Estates 4th Addition to the city of Marion.**

Moved by Olson, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated there are 8 new 12-plex apartment buildings in this new addition which is located off of Fernow Road east of Highway 13. The developer is Rookwood Estates LLC, aka Chad Pelley of Marion. McIntosh asked how close this addition was to our future well site. Steigerwaldt showed the board on the location map. It was approximately 1000 feet.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Olson, Kling, McIntosh, and Chew

**Motion approving payment to Northway Corporation for repairs to Well #5 for \$94,491.11.**

Moved by Kling, seconded by Olson, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt informed the board that the pumping rate in our Well #5 (Jordan Aquifer) dropped significantly earlier this summer. Northway was hired to pull the pump. There were holes in the several of the pipes. A new pump was ordered and installed. Smith stated the well was back in operation until a motor blew in the air compression handling unit. This is under warranty and the contractor has been notified of the issue and will get it resolved.

Approved unanimously

**Motion approving annual Red Flag Rules program for FY24.**

Moved by Olson, seconded by Kling, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared the annual report for the board's review of the Identity Theft Prevention Program. He stated we had no exposure incidents to report. We have a very good city IT department that are very knowledgeable and stay on top of all identity theft related issues and topics.

Approved unanimously

**Motion approving a second High Deductible Health Care insurance option for water employees.**

Moved by Kling, seconded by Olson, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated the city council had recently adopted a second option for health insurance for city employees called a High Deductible Health Care Plan (HDHP). Steigerwaldt shared some of the documents that describe the benefits/options of a HDHP. He shared that the city is giving employees seed money to start the Health Saving Account (HSA) from which they would pay their medical bills from. \$1,600 for a single plan and \$3,200 for a family plan starting January 1, 2024. The employee would also have to set money aside each month or each pay check to build up funds within their HSA. The city does not know what amount (if any) would be given to employees next year. It will mainly depend on the financial health of the insurance fund. If claims are low they could offer the same or more money to employees but if claims are high then less money may be given to employees if at all.

Steigerwaldt mentioned we are not having much luck getting a contract from the city's HSA provider but we should have a contract soon. He mentioned there have been several health care forums for employees to attend to learn more about the HDHP and the HSA vendor.

The board was agreeable with this second health insurance option that the city is offering to employees. The water employees can sign up for the HDHP and HSA during the open

enrollment period at the end of the month and first week in November. Steigerwaldt mentioned there is a lot of work on the back end that Janice Lawrence will be involved with setting up the second insurance option.

Approved unanimously

**Discussion regarding a future storage shed at the main shop.**

Steigerwaldt shared some renderings of a potential new storage shed location at the main water shop. He had a local lumber yard prepare a quote for a 100' x 50' storage shed. Steigerwaldt did not have a complete cost estimate for the entire project but he did receive a material cost number for the building. He expected the entire project to cost around \$550,000 - \$600,000 once power, gas, insulation and concrete costs are figured. He was looking for direction from the board if they were agreeable to spend money on this new shed so he could proceed with getting more estimates and include this item in next year's capital projects and budget. The board stated they were in favor of the new storage shed.

Approved

**Discussion regarding Field Operations Reports.**

Smith reviewed last month's projects. He stated Northway pulled and reset the Well #5 pump last month. Our pump in our 29th Avenue Booster Station was pulled for maintenance and repairs and staff painted the Well #1 pump house. The distribution crew was making good progress on the new water main installation at Armar Drive. Smith stated daily pumping totals are starting to drop from the summer highs.

Approved

**Secretary Report**

Steigerwaldt shared the September building report which had 23 building permits pulled over \$50,000 in valuation.

**Adjourned at 5:24 PM**

The next Marion Water Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14th at 4:00 pm at 3050 5th Avenue and on ZOOM.

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Amy Olson, Chairman

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Todd Steigerwaldt, Secretary