



MINUTES Water Board

4:00 PM - Tuesday, January 9, 2024
Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue

The Water Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 4:00 PM, at Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT: Amy Olson

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Steigerwaldt and Curt Huhndorf

CALL TO ORDER

Motion to approve the December 12, 2023 minutes and December 2023 payable invoices for \$1,491,935.72.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced items. Bender asked about the canceled check to the city. Steigerwaldt explained that he had mistakenly overpaid one of the invoices the city had sent last month. The city didn't want to keep a small credit on file for the Water Department so they asked to void the check and resubmit a check for the correct amount.

Approved unanimously

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

Moved by Bender, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced items. Steigerwaldt stated he reinvested the \$1 million CD at FSB that matured on December 18 with another 12-month CD at FSB after comparing rates with other banks.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving Resolution 24-01 the FY 25 (24-25) budget beginning July 1, 2024.

Moved by Chew, seconded by McIntosh, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt reviewed the proposed budget numbers and capital project items with the board. Chew asked if he had ever asked Alliant to give us a better electric rate. Steigerwaldt had explored this years ago and the answer was no. We could put our plants on an energy demand rate but then we would have to shut down plants if Alliant called us during a power disruption or outage. Bender asked if Site 7 at Echo Hill was on REC. Steigerwaldt stated it was and they have a lower electric rate than Alliant.

Steigerwaldt highlighted other items in the proposed budget. He anticipates a 3% water rate increase for next fiscal year to cover the increasing electric bill costs and inflation on materials. He plans to continue to reinvest the excess funds in CDs as they are currently

earning good interest. Staff is requesting to purchase two new vehicles and there are multiple water main relay projects budgeted. Also proposed in the budget is a new storage building at the main shop. Engineering design of a 1 MG composite elevated water tower to be constructed off of Lucore Road is also budgeted.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, McIntosh, Kling, and Chew

Motion approving payment #3 to Rathje Construction Co. for the 2023 27th Street Water Main Relay for \$179,344.63.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt told the board that Rathje has completed the project. They even hydro-seeded the yards. If the seeding doesn't grow next spring they will come back and reseed. The project came in over budget due to the unplanned curb and gutter that needed to be replaced that was not initially anticipated.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to Veenstra & Kimm Inc. for professional services relating to the Silurian Well 11 Project for \$705.85.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Kling, approving the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt told the board that the contractor is expecting mobilization on site pending weather conditions in a few weeks.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving contract with Martin Gardner for design services for new storage building at 101 8th Avenue.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Chew, approving the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared the agreement for services from Martin Gardner for design plans and specifications for the new storage building. He told the board that he met with Kyle Martin and discussed the project scope. Kyle lowered his initial cost for their service from his earlier estimate. He has three individuals that are available to begin design upon contract approval. The goal is to have plans available in April for a May public letting. Construction would begin in late July or August. Bender asked if the contract was a boiler plate contract as he had not seen verbiage before regarding the architect getting additional payment for change orders etc. Steigerwaldt stated the contract was more for a complex structure that may change a lot. He didn't anticipate additional charges. Bender also asked if we were hiring a surveyor as the contract stated. Steigerwaldt stated that we would do our own survey for the project.

Approved unanimously

Discussion on consultant selection for future elevated water tower at Lucore Road site.

Steigerwaldt shared with the board his discussions with two Des Moines metro towns regarding their recent construction of composite elevated water towers. Both communities used V&K Inc for their consultant and both were very pleased with the design and overall project and construction services. Steigerwaldt recommended that he request a scope of services from V&K Inc. for our future elevated water tower to be constructed on the new ground off of Lucore Road. The board was in agreement with this as V&K Inc. has a vast knowledge of our water system and the expertise to design

and inspect the construction of the future elevated water tower.

Approved unanimously

Discussion regarding Field Operations Reports.

Steigerwaldt reviewed the monthly reports with the board. There were two water main breaks last month. McIntosh asked if they occurred over the Christmas or New Years holiday. Huhndorf stated they didn't. Steigerwaldt stated staff was rebuilding a pump for the 29th Avenue Booster Station. The distribution crew installed irrigation equipment at Lowe Park for the Parks Department, laid a sanitary sewer service for the future storage building, and installed a 4" valve at 115 6th Avenue.

Approved

Secretary Report

December Building Permits

There were 6 building permits issued in December 2023 over a \$50,000 valuation.


Approved

ADJOURN

The next monthly meeting for the Marion Water Board will be on Tuesday, February 13th 2024, at 4 PM at 3050 5th Avenue, Marion and on ZOOM.



Terry Chew, Chairman



Todd Steigerwaldt, Secretary