

The regular monthly meeting of the Marion Water Department's Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:15 PM, on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in the executive conference room of City Hall, Marion, Iowa. Trustees Mary Ann McComas, Greg Hapgood, John Bender, John McIntosh and Robert Anderson were present. Chairman McComas called the meeting to order. Other people attending the meeting included Todd Steigerwaldt, Board Secretary, Jerry Blazek, Operations Supervisor and Curt Huhndorf, Distribution Foreman.

Citizen Linda Hegland of 500 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Marion spoke to the board regarding a water service leak she encountered this fall. She stated she received three quotes from area contractors and selected B. G. Brecke Inc to do the repair work. The old water service line was difficult to trace out and it was determined that the service line material was iron pipe instead of the traditional copper. The water service line had to be replaced as city water was leaking into their basement. She contacted Steigerwaldt about the homeowner's responsibility for replacing the service line. He stated that code stated the water service line is the homeowner's responsibility from the public main to the house.

Brecke had to dig several holes to determine the location of the old water service line. It was eventually determined that her service line was tied into the neighbor's service line at 560 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Per code, Mrs. Hegland was required to abandon the old water service line which was tied into the neighbor's service line. This required removal and replacement of a portion of the neighbor's driveway.

Mrs. Hegland researched the history of the neighbor's service line. She stated over 12 years ago Marion Water Department employees had fixed a leak at the neighbor's property between the house and stop box. There was no permit pulled for this work. Brecke told her that the workers should have noticed the connection of both service lines at that time and could have addressed the issue then. Since the board was just receiving this information they asked that staff review her information and get back with her. Mrs. Hegland shared maps and documentation of the invoices from Brecke. She stated she had paid the entire bill but needed a loan to do so. She requested the water department pay for the water service line from the stop box to the public main in the amount of \$5,178.00 because 12+ years ago the workers should have noticed this issue. She stated she would accept financial responsibility for the new water service line from the new stop box to the house.

Bender asked staff if these shared water service lines were common. Huhndorf stated there are a few that exist in the old parts of town. McIntosh asked who her neighbor was. She stated Dave and Beth Calhoun and they had given her the information about the past owner of the house and the water service line repair done by water department staff.

Motion by Bender and seconded by McIntosh to receive and file Mrs. Hegland's documentation regarding her water service line repair costs and correspondence from her contractor. Vote: all Ayes (5-0)

Mrs. Hegland and her son left the meeting.

McIntosh somewhat recalled this particular job. He thought the daughter of a water department worker was living at this house. He recalled workers borrowed a private

contractor's backhoe and the workers volunteered their time after normal working hours to assist the homeowner. Huhndorf recalled the borrowed backhoe was difficult to run as it didn't have the same levers and controllers as the department's backhoe. It was noted that the service leak repair on the neighbor's property 12+ years ago was done on private property which would not require a city permit to do the work. It was also stated the department did not incur any financial cost as the backhoe was borrowed and labor was donated by the employees. Huhndorf recalled only replacing the stop box and new service from the stop box to the house. The location where the two service lines were connected was between the sidewalk and street curb. They didn't work in this area as the new box was north of the sidewalk. They would not have seen the two water service lines connected together where they were working north of the sidewalk.

Steigerwaldt told the board he would research this information further and get back with Mrs. Hegland. The board reiterated the department's policy that the property owner is responsible for the water service line from the public main to into the house.

Minutes of the regular monthly board meeting held at 5:15 PM on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 were reviewed along with the November disbursements, and the November 2013 fund balance report. Motion by McIntosh, seconded by Anderson to approve same. Vote: all Ayes (5-0)

Motion by Hapgood, seconded by Bender approving employee wages and benefit package for fiscal year 2014-2015. Vote: all Ayes (5-0)

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Bender approving water main application for Hunters Field 7<sup>th</sup> Addition to the City of Marion, Iowa. Steigerwaldt showed the board on the city wall map where this addition was located which was between 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Winslow Road and north of Connection Avenue. Steigerwaldt informed the board that the developer will be reimbursing the water department once he final plats for the cost of the water main. The department had previously paid for the new water main installation within this development to allow an additional water main loop to the Hunters Ridge subdivision area. Vote: all Ayes (5-0)

Motion by Bender, seconded by Hapgood approving payment #3 to Veenstra & Kimm, Inc for professional engineering services for Silurian Wells #8 & #9 in the amount of \$1,770.00. Steigerwaldt stated the consultant had met a DNR staff member at each proposed well site. The permit and draft plans were submitted to the DNR for review and comment. Bender asked if the consultant had submitted a quote yet for the plan design and specifications for their services for the project letting. Steigerwaldt stated they had not done this yet but he knows it is coming. He reminded the board the first proposal was only for getting the necessary permits, site plans and documentation needed for receiving approval from the DNR to install the two new wells. Vote: all Ayes (5-0)

Motion by McIntosh, seconded by Bender to receive and file the Marion Water Department annual audit for fiscal year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 2013. The board stated that the usual auditor comments were listed as they were every year. Vote: all Ayes (5-0)

Motion by Hapgood, seconded by Bender approving payment to Hogan Hansen for auditing services for fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$9,500.00. Steigerwaldt

stated this was the 4<sup>th</sup> year of our 5 year contract with Hogan Hansen. Vote: all Ayes (5-0)

The results of the fracture trace analysis at four well sites were reviewed. This study may determine the optimal location to drill future wells to obtain the highest amount of water. Steigerwaldt stated Well Site #5 didn't show great potential but the other three sites did. This theory will be tested when the new Silurian well is drilled at Gill Park.

Steigerwaldt updated the board on the draft annexation agreement for the county subdivisions along North 10<sup>th</sup> Street that are being required to annex to the city either voluntarily or by an involuntary process.

Blazek reviewed with the board the cost estimate he obtained for free from a consultant to repair and repaint the two half million gallon elevated water towers. McIntosh asked which one should be done first. Blazek suggested the Lindale tower. McIntosh asked if they have to be encapsulated. Blazek didn't think so if the contractor was not asked to remove the lead paint surface. Blazek stated both towers are in need of repainting and general maintenance but budget may only allow one to be done at a time. It was suggested by the consultant to have a safety railing installed on the tower with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party antennas on it.

Blazek updated the board on the field activities: Service Department: remote read meters installed on 21 accounts; 136 meter read orders; 34 straight meters to radio; 194 tag orders; 65 service calls; and 396 locations worked. Huhndorf prepared a detailed monthly report of the items and jobs completed by the distribution crew for the month. Water main inspections occurred on both private and city projects. The distribution crew had 3 water main breaks during the month.

Jerry shared the results of the city wide leak detection survey. Only a few main and service leaks were found. Several fire hydrant seals were leaking too.

November gallons pumped: 69,893,000

### **Secretary Report –**

Steigerwaldt shared with the board the monthly building permit report. There were 27 new building permits issued last month. 23 single family homes and 4 condo buildings.

Steigerwaldt told the board he had not heard any news regarding the selection process of the EO80 stakeholder group which will review possible changes to the diversion, storage and withdrawal amount of water from the Jordan Aquifer.

Steigerwaldt thanked Hapgood and Bender for attending the Watershed Workshop. Although no legislator ended up attending this event that Steigerwaldt had invited. Mr. Daniel Lundby did contact Steigerwaldt to meet December 12<sup>th</sup> to review the future Jordan Aquifer challenges and issues the department is facing.

Steigerwaldt mentioned to the board that the candidate for the evening and weekend meter change out program has changed his mind. He did give us another name that staff will contact to see if there is interest.

Motion by Hapgood, seconded by Bender approving a contribution in the amount of \$500.00 towards the Winter Light Project which is sponsored by the Marion Chamber's Leadership In Action program. Vote: all Ayes (5-0)

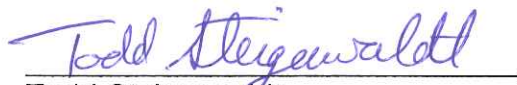
Motion by Hapgood, seconded by Anderson nominating John Bender to serve as chairperson for the Marion Water Board for the calendar year 2014. Vote: all Ayes (5-0)

The next regular monthly meeting for the water board was set for 5:15 PM on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

Chairman McComas adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.



John Bender  
Chairman



Todd Steigerwaldt  
Secretary