

Bagley Public Utilities
Commissioners Meeting
March 15, 2023

Chairman Thomas Lillegaard called to order the regular meeting of the Bagley Public Utilities Commission on March 15, 2023 at 2:00pm. Also present for the meeting were Commissioner Stuart Lien, managers Bill Masterson and Vicky Fletcher. Joining the meeting via zoom were Commissioner Dennis Merschman and Mike Karvakko with Karvakko Engineering.

Lien made a motion to approve the minutes as written for the regular board meeting held February 15, 2023. Merschman seconded, motion carried.

Karvakko attended meeting to answer any questions regarding the water and sewer project. Masterson provided update on bonding bill status. Karvakko stated Phase II of the project is ready to be put out for bid with USDA funding requirements once the railroad permits are issued. Discussion held on changes for bidding specs and construction timeframes if Bagley would be awarded funds from bonding bill. Karvakko left the meeting.

Lien moved to approve the February 2023 expenditures as listed. Motion was seconded by Merschman and carried.

The Board reviewed bills presented for payment in March 2023. Lien made a motion to authorize payment of the March bills and Merschman seconded. Motion carried.

Masterson received draft invoices from Curt Meyer, WSN for the engineering services provided on Hwy #92 Project. The utility portion totaled \$123,006.92, after WSN wrote off approximately \$55,000 as charges exceeded original estimate due to construction issues. The City of Bagley was invoiced separately for \$68,980.11 for Street Improvements completed during the Hwy #92 construction. Board discussed the invoice, and tabled decision to pay until Attorney Stephen Larson reviewed charges and Fletcher pulled list of WSN payments already made.

Masterson contacted Bobcat for quote on 33hp mini excavator to replace the DitchWitch trencher. The quote was \$54,786.39 after trade-in allowance of \$15,000 on the trencher. A second quote from CAT was about \$60,000 for 22hp excavator because CAT doesn't make 33hp model. With funds available in budgeted reserves, Merschman made the motion to purchase Bobcat as quoted. Motion was seconded by Lien and carried.

Masterson explained the urgency to purchase some backup generators as MISO warns of possible black outs, especially in summer, and BPU recently experienced scare in January to shed firm load immediately. Clearbrook Electric quoted \$36,381 for waterplant generator completely installed, and \$14,000 each to serve the Getchell and Greensview lift stations. Scott Caouette has applied for \$10,000 grant, and will apply for another when available, which could go toward purchase of generator for waterplant. Chairman asked about other contractors and dual fuel. Masterson will check area again for another quote, and for dual fuel option. Board discussed using American Rescue Plan Act funds. City Clerk Faye Jacobs has asked Brady Martz auditors to determine eligible expenses for funds. Motion made by Merschman to authorize Masterson to proceed with installing the three generators. Lien seconded, motion carried.

One of the pumps at Getchell lift station failed and will need to be replaced. Masterson suggests replacing both pumps now and keeping older pump that works as spare. Board again questioned possibility of using ARPA funds.

Bagley Public Utilities
Commissioners Meeting
March 15, 2023
Continued

Masterson intends to replace a bucket truck and natural gas truck. Because the window from when the truck is available to when it must be purchased is very small, Masterson will need pre-approval to order it. Masterson will provide pricing for Board at next meeting.

Motion by Lien and second by Merschman to approve Fletcher signing the pre-commitment-model through NCTC for the Turner contract negotiations. Motion carried.

Masterson informed Commission the employees voted 'no' to union representation. Employee handbook will need to be reviewed and updated on employee working guidelines as there is no longer a union contract. Commission approved 2.5% COLA for former union positions and office staff retroactive to January 1, 2023. Motion to increase wages made by Merschman, seconded by Lien, and carried.

Masterson was authorized to advertise for utility workers and a journeyman lineman. Board also requested business manager position to be posted.

The electric grant Scott Caouette explored would not cover BPU needs for poles, underground conversions, etc. but there are other grant opportunities so BPU will continue search.

Being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Merschman, seconded by Lien, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Thomas Lillegaard, Chairman

Attest:

Vicky Fletcher, Business Manager