

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT  
COMMISSION MEETING  
MAY 12, 2016

CWL Commission President Poser called the CWL Commission meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Commissioners present: Poser, Lang, Sanderson, Andler, Melotte, Robbins and Crombie. Also present at the meeting was CWL Sup't. Anthon and Alderperson Reid.

It was reported that the City Clerk, as required by appropriate Wisconsin Statutes, had given proper public notice of the meeting.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved on a motion by Crombie, seconded by Robbins.

Visitor's Comments and Utility Communications: The Odd Fellows, American Cancer Society and Columbus 4<sup>th</sup> of July Organization had requests for donations in the Commission Packet. Anthon explained that to date in 2016, \$100 of the \$1,500 WPPI Community Contributions Account has been used. Motion by Robbins, second by Andler, to approve contributions in the same amount as last year to each organization. Also, included were several articles that have appeared recently about the DNR funding lead service line replacements.

The Consent Agenda which consisted of the April 14th CWL Commission Meeting minutes, Monthly Treasurer's Report, ESR Report and Outage Report, was amended to remove the ESR Report, and move it to New Business on a motion from Lang, seconded by Melotte. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

2016 CWL Borrowing/Bonding Discussion: The Commission reviewed proposals from Ehlers Investment Partners (EIP) and the F&M Bank in regards to the investment of the bond proceeds until they are spent in 2017. EIP anticipates returns of about \$18,275 and F&M anticipates returns of approximately \$20,200. Motion by Sanderson, second by Robbins to use F&M Bank as the financial institution for holding the 2016 A MRB proceeds until they are needed to pay 2017 James Street Project related costs. Motion carried.

Discussion on Water Plant #1: In April of this year, Water Tower Clean & Coat(WTC&C) of Lodi completed a dive inspection of the reservoir at WP #1. The dive inspection was completed to stay in compliance with the required DNR 5-year inspection schedule. Based on that inspection, WTC&C provided a list of recommendations to upgrade and rehabilitate the reservoir. Anthon explained the need to repair the longitudinal crack in the reservoir and to remove and replace the coating that is on the exterior of the reservoir. Based on WTC&C's list the Commission approved the following; replacement of the exterior membrane, cleaning/coating of exposed reinforcing rod, installation of a Bilco hatch and repair of the longitudinal crack at an approximate cost of \$18,200. Motion by Sanderson, second by Melotte, to approve WTC&C of Lodi, to complete the repairs at an approximate cost of \$18,200. Motion carried.

Long Range Planning Review: This item was held over from last month's meeting. Anthon reviewed a Capital Improvement Plan for CWL. The plan is 'fluid' based on the fact that some of the items on the plan are driven by the City deciding what streets will be repaired. Also, Anthon noted that funding sources for all the projects are not known at this time.

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Fireman's Park Pavilion Electrical Extension: At last month's meeting Anthon was asked if E3P or CTC Funds could be used for the Pavilion Electrical Extension. Unfortunately, both of these funds cannot be used for the purpose of extending 3 phase power to the Pavilion. Anthon noted that the funds could be used to help offset costs for energy efficiencies inside the Pavilion. Motion by Sanderson, second by Melotte, to extend 3 phase power to the Park Pavilion Building at no cost. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

GD Roberts Grant Application: Included in the packet this month, was a memo from ESR Stieve outlining a proposed E3P incentive application from GD Roberts. GD Roberts purchased a new fiber laser that is more energy efficient than their current laser. Due to the timing of the application, GD Roberts was not able to apply for a Focus on Energy Grant. Therefore, ESR Stieve, suggested that a \$7,500 maximum grant be applied for GD Roberts. Motion by Lang, second by Crombie, to approve a \$7,500 grant for GD Roberts with the funds coming from CWL's E3P Fund. Motion carried.

Cash Disbursements/Accounts Payable Reports: The Commission reviewed the April Cash Disbursements Report. Checks numbered 18468-18527 and 37 wire and ACH transfers, totaled \$1,247,317.66. The Commission reviewed the Accounts Payable Report and ordered paid 46 requests totaling \$174,015.41. Motion by Sanderson, second by Robbins, to approve paying the 46 requests from the AP Report and to transfer \$59,021.60 from the James Street Account #1266 to the General Fund # 1310. Motion carried. The April cost per kilowatt-hour was \$0.07348. Reports were approved and placed on file.

Low Income/Public Benefits Discussion: This item was held over from last month. Included in this month's packet was a memo from Mike Hodges of WPPI detailing the options that CWL has for dispersing their Low Income/Public Benefits. The options included remaining with Energy Services Incorporated, having WPPI administer the program or giving the funds to the State DOA. After considerable discussion, motion by Sanderson, seconded by Melotte to opt into the State of Wisconsin DOA program for Low Income/Public Benefits. Motion carried on a voice vote.

DNR Lead Removal Loan Fund: Anthon discussed the proposed DNR Lead Service Line Replacement on private property loan fund with the Commission. The DNR is putting a great deal of pressure on water utilities to replace lead service lines on private property. The issue is that the PSC will not allow the use of rate payer funds for the replacement of lead service lines on private property. Anthon contacted the DNR about the \$11.8-million-dollar state-wide fund that has been established for lead service line replacement on private property. The loan is being set up to provide principal forgiveness to Water Utilities that are eligible, based on MHI and a scoring system established by the DNR. Anthon reported that the DNR maximum allowable principal forgiveness that Columbus is potentially eligible for is \$300,000 based on the population. The other issue with this program according to Anthon is the fact that the DNR does not have all the proper forms available yet for Water Utilities to even begin to apply for these funds. Anthon will report back to the Commission next month on this issue.

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Joint Council/Commission Meeting: The Commission discussed the item and was of the opinion that if a joint meeting was needed the City Council would request such a meeting.

Water & Electric Rate Study Review: This item is on CWL's annual calendar. The last electric and water rate adjustments were completed in 2012. Lang inquired about adjusting water rates in 2018 due to the recent improvements to the water system and the need for cost recovery. Anthon agreed that 2018 would be a good target date for a water rate adjustment as it will have been 6 years since the last rate adjustment.

2015 Consumer Confidence Report: Anthon explained that the annual CCR has been placed on the CWL website and distributed to various locations through-out Columbus.

**REPORTS:**

Financial Report was given by Sup't. Anthon and placed on file.

Mayor Comments: The Mayor departed at 4:45 pm from the meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

- 20 applicants applied for the business manager position, 5 were interviewed by Anthon, Lietha and Stark. Anthon noted that there are 2 finalists that he would recommend for the position and that he was going to negotiate with the top candidate over the next week.
- Anthon participated in a rating call with Moody's for the upcoming Utility Revenue Bond Issue. CWL has been rated A-3 by Moody's. Which is what Greg Johnson of Ehlers expected.
- Poser and Anthon met with new Alderperson Andrew Traxler last week for about an hour to discuss CWL.
- A preconstruction meeting for HWY 16 & 60 intersection was held on Tuesday of this week. Anthon, CA Vander Sanden and CFD Chief Koehn attended the meeting.
- Anthon showed the CWL Commission a rebate form from Alliant for a residential car charging station. The Commission thought that CWL could potentially offer a similar rebate to CWL customers through the E3P Fund. Anthon will have ESR Stieve approach the PSC about this issue.

Motion by Robbins, second by Lang to adjourn at 5:10 pm.

**\*\*Next Scheduled Meeting – Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm at Columbus Water & Light\*\***

Respectfully Submitted,

Rolf Lang  
CWL Commission Secretary