

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water

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Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2022

The regular scheduled meeting of the Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW) System Board of Commissioners was held at the LPRW Office in Lake Benton, MN, on Monday, February 28, 2022; and was available for viewing/participating via Zoom video/teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Board Chairman Joe Weber. A quorum was established with Commissioners Randy Kraus, Bill Ufkin, Frank Engels, Brent Feikema, Pete Petersen, Earl DeWilde, Mitch Kling, Jan Moen, and Rod Spronk in attendance. Commissioner Jerry Lonneman was absent. Also attending was Enterprise Technician Jodi Greer, System Supervisors Tom Muller and Patrick McCarthy, General Manager Jason Overby, Finance Consultant Nathan Kinner, Board Attorney Ron Schramel, and Lyon County Commissioner Rick Anderson. DGR Engineer Darin Schriever joined the meeting in progress.

Agenda: *M/S Feikema/Kraus to approve the agenda. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.*

Minutes: *M/S Spronk/Moen to approve the minutes from the January Board Meeting. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.*

Operations Report: Muller presented the Operations Report for February. Muller discussed expansion joint issues at the Rushmore Tower. LPRW is pursuing quotes to repair the leak in the tower. Muller noted we had our first freeze-up of the year Near Hardwick.

Manager's Report: GM Overby presented the February Manager's Report. Muller noted that an official from Adrian stated they are still interested in water from LPRW. Spronk asked questions about the City of Brewster. The GM discussed his meeting with the city. Schramel mentioned concerns if MnSP facility were to shut down, then City and/or LPRW would be stuck with required monthly minimum.

Darin Schriever joined the meeting at 10:25am.

GM Overby noted the Letter of Commitment to the City of Lake Benton, as well as the City's approved Resolution for Transfer of 15 acres of land and \$15,000 for a private sewer system to LPRW. LPRW gave DGR approval to move forward with the project.

- **Employee Vision Coverage with PEIP.** GM shared with the Board a voluntary vision insurance option through MN PEIP for LPRW staff. This option is at the employee's expense and would be taken out of their check monthly.

M/S DeWilde/Engels to accept and add the voluntary vision insurance plan with MN PEIP as an option/benefit for LPRW employees. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.

Engineer's Report: Schriever presented the Engineering Report for February. Schriever highlighted research towards a pilot test for the NAWS. Purchase of the land for the WTP will occur after the LQP Conditional Use Hearing and LQP

Commission meeting. Schriever then provided updates for various cities. DGR will begin putting together an RFP for architecture firms for the new office/shop. Anticipated project timelines were discussed.

Attorney's Report: Schramel reported on 2021 assessments and final construction costs associated with 2021 hookups. A total of 84 new customers in 2021. There was board discussion regarding upfront costs, overall hookup costs and rising material costs. Chair assigned further analysis and review at the committee level.

Treasurer's Report: Nathan Kinner reviewed the Treasurer's Report for February.

M/S Engels/Feikema to approve the Treasurer's Report, as presented. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.

Paid Bills:

M/S Ufkin/Kling to approve payment on checks #8094 through #8220, excluding voided checks #8122, #8131, & #8146. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.

Pending Bills:

- DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company:
 - General Services = \$5,170.00
 - North Area Water Source = \$4,560.99
 - New Office Development = \$549.00
- Schramel Law Office:
 - General Services = \$2,691.12
 - North Water Source = \$1,977.50

M/S Kling/Moen to approve paying pending bills, as presented. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee:** No report.
- **Budget and Finance Committee:** No report. Engels mentioned the possibility of reviewing water rates within the year due to rising costs of everything. Spronk inquired if staff tracks fuel charges. GM responded that fuel amounts and costs are tracked and reported monthly by the two fuel card companies.
- **Personnel Committee:** No report. Kling asked if the GM review had been completed yet.
- **Water Resources & Equipment Committee:** No report. Ufkin asked if WR/E Committee will be handling the office/shop project in combination with the NAWS project. Chair Weber will assess.
- **Joint Powers Board Representative:** No report.

Other Business:

- **Tort Liability.** Schramel discussed the Tort Liability resolution and reviewed the

definition of a municipality in statute which does not specifically identify rural water system separately. Schramel believes that rural water systems need to get that language changed to include rural water systems formed under MN Statute 116A. LPRW to discuss this item with other districts at the MRWA Conference this week.

M/S Kling/DeWilde to adopt the Resolution Concerning Tort Liability. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.

- **Resolution Extending Workers Compensation Coverage to the LPRW Board of Commissioners.**

M/S Ufkin/Engels to adopt the Resolution Extending Workers Compensation Coverage to LPRW Board of Commissioners. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.

- **Governmental Affairs (Lobbying Services) Proposal.** GM reviewed the proposal from Samuel Krueger. The proposed lobbying services agreement would cover a 2-year period for \$70,000.

M/S Ufkin/Feikema to accept the Lobbying Services Agreement for a two-year term with Samuel Krueger. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.

- **Mowing Services.** Two bids were received for a two (2) year contract for mowing services with LPRW. Winning bidder was Randy Studeman with a base bid of \$1,854.17 per full site revolution.

M/S Moen/Feikema to accept the low bid from Randy Studeman for mowing services in 2022-23, pending receipt of acceptable insurance coverage. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: *M/S DeWilde/Kraus to adjourn the board meeting at 12:10PM. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (Lonneman). Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Kraus, LPRW Board Secretary