

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water

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Meeting Minutes

September 26th, 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, September 26th, 2022; and was available for viewing/participating via Zoom video/teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Board Chair Joe Weber. A quorum was established with Commissioners Bill Ufkin, Frank Engels, Peter Petersen, Jan Moen, Mitch Kling, Rod Spronk, Brent Feikema and Earl DeWilde in attendance. Also attending was Enterprise Technician Jodi Greer, General Manager Jason Overby, System Supervisor Patrick McCarthy, DGR Engineer Darin Schriever, Nathan Kinner (Kinner and Co.), Board Attorney Ron Schramel and Lyon County Commissioner Rick Anderson.

Absent: Commissioners Randy Kraus and Jerry Lonneman, and System Supervisor Tom Muller.

Agenda: *M/S Engels/Petersen to approve the agenda. Aye - 9, Nay - 0, Absent - 2 (Kraus & Lonneman). Motion carried.*

Minutes: *M/S Engels/Moen to approve the minutes from the August 2022 Board Meeting. Aye - 9, Nay - 0, Absent - 2 (Kraus & Lonneman). Motion carried.*

Engineer's Report: Schriever presented the September Engineers Report. Items discussed in detail included:

- Working on the City of Brewster second connection.
- The Minneota Tower is scheduled for inspection in October.
- Ron Schramel reported that Red Rock RW's project bid came in lower than the engineers estimate. Project is starting next week.
- Spronk asked Darin if we could carve out a piece of the project to utilize the bond money or request an extension. GM noted in conversation with Rep. Schomacker, that he recommended LPRW not requesting a time extension.

Operations Report: McCarthy presented the September Operations Report. Commissioner DeWilde asked about an out-of-water complaint by the Chandler Tower area.

Manager's Report: GM Overby presented the September Manager's Report. L&C have lifted their restrictions so we will be adjusting our deliveries from Osceola Co. Rural Water and L&C. GM brought up an E-Billing option that just became available through our billing software. It sounds like a good idea, but the board would like to make sure there is an option for the customer to have an email notifying them about their bill. GM will bring back more information to the next board meeting.

Attorney's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Kinner presented September Treasurer's Report.

M/S Feikema/Kling to approve the Treasurer's Report, as presented. Aye - 9, Nay - 0, Absent - 2 (Kraus & Lonneman). Motion carried.

Paid Bills: *M/S Kling/Moen to approve payment on checks #8942 through #9051. Aye - 9, Nay - 0, Absent - 2 (Kraus & Lonneman). Motion carried.*

Pending Bills:

- DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company:
 - General Services = \$12,461.00
 - City of Rushmore Connection = \$1,500.00
 - North Area Water Source = \$12,694.00
- Schramel Law Office:
 - General Services = \$2,075.00

M/S Ufkin/Engels to approve paying pending bills, as presented. Aye - 9, Nay - 0, Absent - 2 (Kraus & Lonneman). Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Budget and Finance Committee:** Nothing to report. Meeting scheduled for October 24th.
- **Personnel Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Water Resources & Equipment Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **MRWA Representative:** Nothing to report.
- **L&C MN Joint Powers Board Representative:** Nothing to report.

Commissioner Spronk asked about employee wages and what the Board is thinking for adjustments. Chair Weber noted that we need to hire more people. Commissioners Spronk, Weber and Ufkin agree that we are short staffed. Chair Weber wants to keep a good environment, a good place to work.

GM Would like to have a personnel committee meeting before a budget meeting. Ufkin asked how much was allocated for raises last year. GM stated that there wasn't an amount given, but rather a ceiling that included wages and benefits. Kinner noted 3% was the floor for everyone plus merit increase. Kinner opined not being in favor of COLA increases because he thinks it's giving employees something for nothing. Ufkin disagreed with that statement, stating it is just bringing the employee to where they need to be due to the economy. There was more discussion on this topic.

Tom Muller arrives at 6:13pm.

Board recommended to staff to order a tree for the passing of Commissioner Lonneman's mother.

Other Business:

- DesignArc Group Proposal.

M/S Engels/DeWilde to approve the DesignArc Group Design Proposal for Phase 1 only in the amount of \$21,450.00. Aye - 9, Nay – 0, Absent – 2 (Kraus & Lonneman). Motion carried.

Ufkin questioned the Limitation Liability in the agreement and that it needed to be removed before Phase 2 would be accepted. GM discuss with DAG and request for removal.

- City of Russell Agreement.

M/S Kling/Petersen to approve the second-generation Water Purchase Agreement with the City of Russell. Aye - 9, Nay – 0, Absent – 2 (Kraus & Lonneman). Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Next Meeting: October 31. Chair Weber may consider this meeting a “day-time” meeting.

Adjournment: *M/S Kling/Spronk to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. Aye - 9, Nay – 0, Absent – 2 (Kraus & Lonneman). Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Kraus, LPRW Board Secretary