



# City of Madison

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

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Tuesday, September 20, 2005

4:35 PM

119 E. Olin Avenue

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#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. by President Priscilla Mather.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** Priscilla B. Mather, Larry L. Studesville, Jonathan H. Standridge and Gregory W. Harrington

**Excused:** Ald. Lauren Cnare

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Brady Williamson, one of four Nakoma residents present at the meeting, said they were present with the hope that there will be discussion about the situation of Wells 10 and 12, particularly Well 10. He said it has been 3½ months since the meeting at Thoreau School, and they have not received any formal communication from the Water Utility.

Mr. Williamson asked that Item 15 on this agenda be moved forward to this point as one of them has another meeting to attend. President Mather said we will move AI's Engineering Report and the petition, Item 15, to this point in the agenda.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes of the August 16, 2005 meeting.

Approved the minutes of the August 16 meeting with some two minor changes.

#### INFORMATIONAL REPORTING

2. August 2005 Water Quality Report.

John Marchewka, Water Quality & Supply Supervisor, reported everything is normal. He said we nearly completed the EPA required unregulated contaminant monitoring. In August we sampled all of our wells, but due to some shipping problems, we have to sample two of the wells again. Jon asked what lab does the testing and John replied Westchester County, New York. They have EPA certification to perform this type of analysis.

3. September Staffing Report.

In Gail Glasser's absence, Dave noted that we have hired an Administrative Clerk 1 (50%), Mary Parmentier, and she will start work on September 26.

4. Operations Report.

**Doug Grueneberg said fall flushing began this month and will be completed in mid-October.**

5. Engineering Report.

Al Larson reported that test pumping of Unit Well 10 did not reveal a zone within the well that had significantly lower Fe and Mn concentrations. Water Well Solutions is working on cleaning up the site and will be installing the permanent pumping equipment. The USGS has asked to log that well, and they expect to be logging it this week. They have a process where they lower a device down into the well and it logs the geological formation. This is part of their Dane County survey process. Every time we pull a pump out of the well, they ask for the opportunity to log the well.

Jon asked if they have completed tests where they walled off other parts of the aquifer trying to find a place with lower manganese, and you said there are none. Al said that is correct. He said the well is extremely crooked, has a lot of crevices in it, and a lot of blast holes from when they developed it back in the 50s. He said they could only seal off between the upper and lower aquifer. They tested the water in the lower aquifer, which is usually better water quality than the upper aquifer, and there was virtually no difference at this location. Al said Well 10 will not be put back in operation this year. Jon asked if Al shared this news with the neighborhood association. Al said no, we've only known this for two or three weeks. Larry asked why we are not sharing information. Dave said we told the neighborhood that we'd keep them informed when we have new information to share, and because we haven't turned the well on or have results from the sampling program, there has been no change in status. Since a letter summarizing the status of our activities was sent to residents in June, Al said that we were going to notify them if we put the well back on line. Dave said it is also important to remember that the levels of manganese are not that high, and the high levels we have seen were due to accumulation in the system. We're trying to resolve the accumulation by flushing the system.

Al said we are sampling at specific sites to get a cross-section of the area, and we have completed 26 samplings in three zones. He said at the 26 sites, we see levels from very low, in the 10 to 20 ppb range, up to 50s to 80s, but nothing really high. Our consultant, Abigail Cantor, is analyzing this data. Jon asked when that analysis would be finished and available for the residents. Al said we're completing the sampling now so probably in a few weeks.

The unidirectional flushing in the Nakoma area will begin after the last sample is taken. We didn't want to flush during the sampling period. It will be a lengthy project when we go through all of the pipelines and flush. It will be a different process from what we use now, a process that researchers say will give us the cleanest mains that we can expect. Al said this entails approximately 66 miles of pipe to be flushed, and it will take several weeks to get all 66 miles completed. We will start at Well 12, flushing from the water source out.

Priscilla asked for a recap on why we are keeping Well 10 as a back up. Al said we would need to use the well if there was a fire or if another well broke down unexpectedly. Priscilla asked if there are insurance implications if we don't have enough capacity. Al said yes, the ISO rates our system for Fire Department, the 911-communication system, and the Water Utility. A lower rating will result in higher insurance rates.

Mrs. Williamson said she is concerned with the lack of notification. Dave said everyone in that zone would be notified when flushing is scheduled--letters would be sent to everyone affected. Brady Williamson said it is good to know there will be a report on the sampling program in a few weeks. He thinks it would also be beneficial for the neighborhood to know when it is finished. He said if 50 ppb is the EPA standard and you have samples coming back over 50, people should know that also. Jon asked that the information also be sent to the Board.

Dave mentioned the petition to DNR from residents, and he gave the Board

copies of the DNR letter in response to the petition.

Al reported that Unit Well 30 is under construction. Black and Veatch will be preparing a final draft of the Infrastructure Management Plan. He has asked them to come to the November Board meeting to make a presentation.

Al mentioned that Jim McCormick was present at the August meeting, questioning the asphalt patching procedure. Al presented a memo to the Board, saying the initial reason for going to a contract is timing and scheduling. He said no one could do all of the patches we need, after winter, in 30 days. Requirements have changed and many patches are now requiring a mill and overlay. He said our Water Utility crews do not have the equipment or expertise to finish this type of work.

Al said he and John Fahrney, City Construction Engineer, discussed this and John said there are only two contractors in the area that have the capability to mill. The other point is that the contract that is administered by City Engineering is for a lot more than just street patching; it also includes resurfacing work. This increased volume of work will result in lower bid prices. Al listed the items the fee covers, and recommended that we continue to piggyback onto the existing City asphalt contract.

Jon asked why Jim McCormick thought he had to come to the Board to get listened to. Dave said on August 4 at the monthly meeting with union stewards, Jim asked about this issue. Dave suggested that he talk to Al Larson who would have more information on that process. Dave said he understands that Jim did not talk to Al about this, nor did he talk to Dave again, before he came to the Board meeting last month. Dave said he planned to discuss the meter with Jim at a meeting scheduled for September 1, and he and Al were the only ones who showed up for the meeting. Al then put this memo together to bring the information to this meeting. Al said he has also had several conversations over the summer with Dale Metcalf, Jim's supervisor, regarding this subject.

6. Paterson Street Report.

Al said the design for the Paterson Street building remodel is proceeding. The original plan was to go to construction in 2006 but now with the capital budget situation, we hope to start in January, 2007.

7. Customer Service/Billing Report.

Ken Key said in August, we had an all time record for number of moves from our customers, 1,423. We call these special readings, people moving in and out of service. Next week we should complete our annual large meter testing. Ken said he, Robin and Sharon are in the process of testing new software for the tax roll process.

## FINANCE

8. Fund Balance Report.

Robin Piper said he added one line to the report for the short-term loan from the City. We drew \$750,000 from the City to help fund our capital projects. The City made a payment to us in the amount of \$450,000 that we weren't expecting until 2008 or 2009. We had advanced some money to TIF District No. 15 when they were building the convention center, and this was repayment of that.

9. Capital Project Statement.

Robin said in July we spent \$841,020. Everything seems to be moving along as planned, and we are almost done paying for the new office complex.

10. Consideration of 2006 Operating Budget request.

Robin gave Board members a copy of everything that was submitted to the City, and said we haven't gotten any feedback on it yet. Robin said our operating expenses are projected to go up 2.61% over the 2005-budgeted request, and a lot of it is for power. This was figured prior to Hurricane Katrina, so there is no allowance in here for things that might go up because of the problems in the gulf. We increased our power costs by \$225,000 for 2006 over 2005, based on what we heard from the utilities. MG&E said they were going to submit a rate increase request of between 9% and 15%. Alliant Energy said they were requesting between 4% and 6%.

Larry asked if there has been analysis as to cost benefit of standby generators, and asked when the load is heaviest. Al said it varies, that we have some wells that run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have others that are peak demand type wells. What we have been doing to save electricity is to switch over to variable speed drives, and new wells are constructed with variable speed drives.

Dave said City Engineering is doing an energy analysis for the entire city, breaking it out by agency. He said between 2003 and 2004, our energy usage went down 20%. Part of that is attributed to the fact that we didn't pump as much water, but Dave said he calculated out equalizing it for the amount of water that we pumped, and basically we still had a 16% energy reduction between 2003 and 2004. He assumes some of that is attributed to the variable speed drives. Dave said he is on a committee to try to improve the energy situation with City agencies.

Robin said Net Income for 2006 is \$40,000, which reflects the 3% rate increase from July. This shows that we should be looking at a rate increase, which we are. Robin said we will be requesting an 11% rate increase, which will take about three months.

Larry Studesville made a motion to accept the informational reports. Greg Harrington seconded; unanimously passed.

## ADMINISTRATION

11. General Manager's Report.

Dave Denig-Chakroff reported he and Robin went to the Board of Estimates meeting last week to report on the Capital Budget. The Capital Budget was submitted to the Council several months ago. The Mayor cut the Paterson Street project from the budget before he submitted his Executive Budget. At this time, the Capital Budget has been modified by a reduction of \$2.4 million for that project. We will look at resubmitting that project for 2007. Jon asked why it was cut, and Dave said the Mayor is trying to reduce the total Capital Budget of the City. He cut a total of \$19 million projects from the various agencies. The money does not go back to the general fund, but he was concerned about potential rate increases and the impact of additional projects. Jon said the Capital Times had a crumby article about the rate increase and the justification for it. He said the next morning the State Journal's item was much more complete. Dave said initially Robin thought we'd submit a 12 to 15% rate increase. We kept working on the numbers and found we'd only need 11%. Dave said he wasn't happy with the Capital Times article either, saying there were a number of misquotes in it. Jon said we are 5th lowest out of 600 in the state, and that fact didn't come out until the next morning. Dave said, when we submit the rate request, he will put out a press release that will provide accurate information. It will be an 11% increase, but we're still going to be 58% of the statewide average.

Dave said, at the Board of Estimates meeting, one of the alders wanted to know why we don't go in for more frequent rate increases so the increases wouldn't be so large, and Dave said that is something we probably need to look at

Our six-month billing cycle was also questioned as to why we don't bill more often. Dave said in the past we've put out surveys and people weren't interested in more frequent billing. Since then, more things have been added to the bill and the bills are higher so they might think differently now. Ken said he did put scenarios out there, one as much as \$250 every six months, and people still weren't interested in changing billing cycles. The PSC had asked him to do this survey. Dave said there are advantages to the Utility with more frequent billing, such as better cash flow.

## OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

## NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

12. [02014](#) Authorizing the Water Utility General Manager to certify water and sewer bills, assessments and charges to the 2005 tax rolls of other governmental units for delinquent accounts in those jurisdictions.

**Sponsors:** Common Council By Request and Lauren Cnare

A motion was made by Standridge, seconded by Harrington, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

Enactment No: RES-05-00833

13. [02047](#) Authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin for the purpose of continuing to promote drinking water research that will help to improve the water quality within the City of Madison water system, protect the public health, and improve system operations.

**Sponsors:** Common Council By Request and Lauren Cnare

**A motion was made by Standridge, seconded by Studesville, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**

**Excused:** Cnare

**Aye:** Mather, Studesville and Standridge

**Abstain:** Harrington

**Enactment No:** RES-05-00834

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND SPECIAL INTEREST ITEMS**

14. 2005 DNR Annual Inspection Report.  
**Dave said we received this just before the August meeting, and it is a good report.**
15. Petition to Ensure Safe and Aesthetically Acceptable Water Quality.  
**This item was discussed in the public comment section at the beginning of the meeting.**
16. Confirmation of the next meeting date of October 18, 2005.  
**Jon said he is a maybe for that meeting but he won't know for a couple of weeks. Dave mentioned that normally the October meeting is the one where election of officers is considered.**
17. Consideration of renewal of employment agreement for General Manager.  
**At 5:53 p.m. Jon Standridge made a motion to go into closed session. Greg Harrington seconded; unanimously passed.**  
**At 6:25 p.m. Jon Standridge made a motion to move out of closed session. Larry Studesville seconded; unanimously passed.**  
**Jon Standridge made a motion to offer renewal of the General Manager's 5-year contract. Greg Harrington seconded; unanimously passed.**



## ADJOURNMENT

At 6:28 p.m. Jon Standridge made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg Harrington seconded, unanimously passed.