

**COLUMBUS UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, July 18 2024**

1. **Call to Order:** Columbus Utility Commission President Thom called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Commissioners present-roll call: Thom, Finkler, Beckman, Rule, Curtis, Hammer. Also, present at the meeting was Jacob Holbert, Utility Director.
3. **Notice of Open Meeting:** Noted as posted.
4. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Hammer, second by Beckman to approve the agenda. Carried by voice vote.
5. **Consent Agenda.** Motion by Rule, second by Curtis to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of June 20, 2024 and June 20, 2024 CUC Workshop, outage report, water, wastewater, and light cash disbursements report, and accounts payable report. Roll Call: Finkler aye, Beckman aye, Rule aye, Curtis aye, Hammer aye, and Thom aye. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. **Discussion and Approval of R-M Task Order: Sanitary Sewer Televising/Inspection Program 2024 in the amount of \$29,650.** Information was presented by Director Holbert stating that the program is intended to start a multi-year program where R-M will assist the Utility in providing services that will meet our 20% inspection requirement per the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Director Holbert also noted that work in the Sanitary Sewer Collection System has already begun. Finkler motioned to approve the funding to R-M in the amount of \$29,650 for the Sanitary Sewer Televising/Inspection Program 2024; Hammer second. Roll Call: Finkler aye, Beckman aye, Rule aye, Curtis aye, Hammer aye, Thom aye. Motion carried.
2. **Discussion of Post inspection images and Approval of Immediate Repair Needs to Sanitary Sewage Collection System totaling \$107,100.** Director Holbert went through the images presented to the Utility of the damage found in the initial televising and jetting project that focused on the area feeding the Waterloo and the Meister Park Lift Stations. After presenting and explaining the images as well as fielding some questions on the images Director Holbert Broke down the Immediate Repair Needs and the cost associated with the repairs. Discussion was initiated by Director Holbert that a majority of all I&I that comes into Sanitary Sewer Systems come from Private Laterals. President Thom commented that the responsibility of the Utility will be to the "curb stop" or right of way at each lateral as was proposed by City Code 102-205. Director Holbert made mention of the recent findings from the Town of Elba flow data. Normal daily flow from the Town of Elba is roughly 50,000 gpd, during the recent June rain events and the subsequent flooding the flows from the Town of Elba were in excess of 600,000 gpd. This can only be caused by the river which had reached flood stage entering the collection system as excessive flows were recorded on dates of zero precipitation. Hammer

motioned to approve the funding for immediate repairs to the Sanitary Sewer Collection System in the amount of \$107,100; Rule second. Roll Call: Beckman aye, Rule aye, Curtis aye, Hammer aye, Thom aye, Finkler aye. Motion carried.

3. **Discussion and Approval of Substation #4 Transformer Animal Contact Repairs – Immediate Replacement of Bushings with funding “not to exceed” \$20,000.** Director Holbert discussed the situation at Substation #4. Explained that the work had to be scheduled prior to approval due to scheduling of the contractor. Bushing replacement is on the agenda for October after the Substation #3 project is completed. Discussed in the meeting is the fact the Utility was lucky that more intensive damage was not caused to the transformer as the cost would be extremely excessive for the Utility to endure. Hammer motioned to approve the funding “not to exceed” \$20,000 for the repairs of Substation #4 Transformer; Finkler second. Roll Call: Rule aye, Curtis aye, Hammer aye, Thom aye, Finkler aye, Beckman aye. Motion carried.

Reports

1. **Utilities Report** Director Holbert provided a report on current operations at the Utilities.
4. **Future Agenda Topics:**
 - a. Director Holbert informed the Commission that the next CUC there will be a presentation from Jodi of Baker Tilly on the Financial Audits of all three Utilities.
 - b. Director Holbert also made mention that he will look into programs such as what is taking place with MMSD in Milwaukee in regards to assisting property owners with the reduction of I&I from their laterals as well as removing all storm water from the Sanitary Sewer System.
5. **Adjourn** Motion by Finkler, second by Hammer/Beckman to adjourn at 6:56 pm. Carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob Holbert
Utility Director