

City of Nashwauk
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
January 21, 2025

Chairman Latvala called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Nashwauk City Hall.

Members present: Chairman Milt Latvala, Commissioner Tom Martire, Commissioner Mike Anderson, Commissioner Brian Ekholm.

Members absent: Commissioner Mark Marinaro.

Also present: John Jamnick, April Kurtock, Joe Peterson, Lance Hopke, Jason Martire.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Martire to adopt the agenda of the January 21, 2025, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Reorganizational Meeting

*Motion by Mike Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Martire to appoint Milton Latvala as Chair of the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

*Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm to appoint Tom Martire as Vice Chair of the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

*Motion by Chairman Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2024, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Claims

*Motion by Chairman Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the claims and file the claims register as official record.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Old Business

East Itasca Joint Sewer Project Update

John Jamnick shared an update from the EIJSB meeting held earlier that day. He mentioned that Jason Martire had shared information related to the VFD failure and replacement. Commissioner Ekholm asked about the VFD and the issues that happened with it.

3rd Street Utility Project Update

There was no update regarding funding.

Water System Follow-up

The project did not make it to the fundable range on the Drinking Water IUP. The Commission could consider funding it through a different route.

Joe Peterson Updates

Joe Peterson shared that he and Lance Hopke went through the storage bins up at the Mesabi Metallica campus trying to determine the condition of the equipment within it and where it could be used. He stated he didn't think it would be worth the effort to combine the two bins and move one to the garage for storage, as the expense for moving the equipment to one storage bin and hauling the empty bin to within the city would likely cost just as much as getting another bin.

Peterson said Mesabi Metallica is adding load off the Calumet Sub. He expressed ongoing concern regarding Mesabi Metallica not addressing an issue on the electrical grid. Peterson reported that Steve Sherner planned on discussing it with them during a meeting this week. If it wasn't addressed, the NPUC may want to consider deenergizing until it is resolved.

Peterson reported on the IRRRB grant, which up until last week it seemed like the Nashwauk project would be included. However, last week, IRRRB dropped the Nashwauk project on the application. He intended to discuss the issue with IRRRB and see if it could be included again. Concept papers for the grant are due Feb 27.

Minnesota Power will be acquired by a Canadian Pension Fund in May. Peterson said Nashwauk has a few service by exceptions with Minnesota Power for the Bozich Addition and ISD 319. Because they're getting bought out, they won't be local, so Peterson suggested that the NPUC might want to get those formalized within the service territory prior to that acquisition.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the new school was using power. Peterson said they're using construction power. Commissioner Anderson asked about the outage in the new addition the previous day. Lance Hopke said that someone hit a power pole after midnight. The pole exploded and had to be replaced. Minnesota Power arrived with two crews. It was a holiday and severe temperatures. Jason Martire said that the NPUC should expect to receive a very large invoice for that repair work.

Commissioner Martire asked about putting a transformer and light at the sliding hill. Peterson said he didn't think that Minnesota Power would allow Nashwauk to put something on their pole and recommended putting one of our own poles up and a 6,000-lumen solar light.

New Business

Training Requests

*Motion by Commissioner Ekholm, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve April Kurtcock and Jason Martire to attend the 2025 Lead & Copper Rule Revision training in Bemidji on May 22, 2025.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

*Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve Jason Martire to attend the MWRA Water & Wastewater annual technical conference in St. Cloud on March 4-6, 2025.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Adjourn

*Motion by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm to adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Secretary