

City of Nashwauk
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
February 18, 2025

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

Members present: Commissioner Mark Marinaro, Commissioner Tom Martire, Chairman Milton Latvala, Commissioner Mike Anderson.

Members absent: Commissioner Brian Ekholm

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

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Martire to adopt the agenda of the February 18, 2025, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

*Motion by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Claims

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve all claims signed and file the claims register as official record.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Special Items

Greg Brohman requested to address the Commission regarding reoccurring sewer backups at this property; however, he was not at the meeting to address the issue.

Old Business

East Itasca Joint Sewer Project Update

The EIJSB meeting was held earlier that day but there were not any action items on their agenda aside from paying claims.

3rd Street Utility Project

John Jamnick said that the project was at a standstill until funding was determined. He noted that Congressman Stauber's office had just released an invitation to apply for Congressional Spending Projects. Commissioner Martire asked about a timeline for the request. April Kurtock read an email that was received in June of 2024 from Stauber's Legislative Director Allie Esau, which stated, "I am pleased to inform you that the Appropriations Committee has decided to fund your EPA STAG project at \$1,000,000. While we are thrilled with this announcement, please note that this is only the first step in a long process. While the project has been accepted and a funding level set, the Interior Appropriations bill must pass the House, be reconciled with legislation passed in the Senate, and, finally, be signed into law." April Kurtock asked for an update in December on the funding status and the response from Ms. Esau was "Unfortunately, the end-of-year spending bill will likely not include CPFs, so we will have to wait for the proposed March deadline to see them added. Of course, we will continue to push for this project's inclusion."

Water Storage for Bozich

John Jamnick provided a site plan for the proposed water tank at County Road 58, which would provide better water pressure to the Bozich Addition and County Garage. The estimated project cost was \$450,000. Commissioner Martire asked about the booster pump situation and if upgrading from one pump to three, like Jason Martire suggested, would be sufficient or if the water tank was needed. Jamnick said the work that was done last year, which consisted of a new pump and installing the controls, helped provide better service up north. Jason Martire provided a picture of the booster pump area, which showed one large pump and two small ones. He said the only working pump is the large one, and the two small ones don't work. He said Minnesota Pump Works is working on a proposal for him, which would add two more large pumps. It would help create redundancy, which would be essential if the large pump went out, as they could continue to provide water to the north.

The overall project was to potentially install a water storage tank and install two additional pumps. Commissioner Marinaro asked if the water tank was needed, as he stated he had a hard time committing to a half million-dollar project if adding pumps would be enough. He additionally asked about fire suppression in Bozich and if the line would provide enough pressure if the fire department needed it. Commissioner Martire asked about the PSI to the north. Jamnick said he would find out. Commissioner Marinaro asked about adding more water to the water tower and if that would help with pressure. Jamnick said he would look at that, too. The Commission requested to see the proposal from Minnesota Pump Works at the next meeting.

Water Tower Restoration

Jason Martire said that we will have more information in 2028, with the project potentially happening in 2029. He stated he had received a very rough estimate of \$500-600,000 to complete the water tower restoration project.

Joe Peterson Updates

Joe Peterson said that the new high school will have permanent power within the next couple weeks.

Regarding the IRRRB grant, he was putting together a concept paper for submission. ARDC has stepped in, and they will be compiling the concept papers from the other utilities.

Peterson also shared an update regarding electrical projects going on at Mesabi Metallica.

New Business

Fund Transfer

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the transfer of \$250,000 from the Mesabi Metallica depreciation savings account to the Electric Depreciation savings account.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Adjourn

*Motion by Commissioner Martire, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 1:39 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Secretary