

**City of Nashwauk**  
**Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission**  
**March 18, 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 Mark Marinaro, Commissioner Mike Anderson, Commissioner Brian Ekholm.

**Members absent:** None.

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

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

**Approval of Claims**

\*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm 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**

Commissioner Martire said that not much was addressed at the East Itasca Joint Sewer Board meeting held earlier that day. Commissioner Anderson said from Lone Pine Township's perspective, a bonding bill needs to be passed. Of the \$12 million project, the Township had secured approximately \$4 million in funding. The project is shovel ready. Jamnick said Lone Pine Township is on the PFA's PPL list and in a good position for funding, with the passing of a bonding bill.

**Depreciation Discussion**

One outstanding item from the Joint Sewer Agreement was establishing a depreciation savings account. The agreement states that Nashwauk will create a separate savings account specifically for the Wastewater Treatment Plant depreciation and that parties, once connected, will pay a proportionate share of the depreciation. April Kurtock stated that this account needed to be created, and Nashwauk needed to address their rates so that contributions could be made to savings. Also, the project was not complete yet, so it was difficult to establish a depreciation schedule. One could be made with the current expenses and revised later. With the transition of auditors, the 2024 audit wouldn't be completed until Fall of 2025, so a depreciation schedule might not be readily available.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Street Utility Project Update**

The project is waiting for a bonding bill to be passed.

### **Water System Follow-up**

Jason Martire obtained a quote from Minnesota Pump Works for two 40 HP pumps, 2 VFDs and installation of them within the pump house. John Jamnick said he reviewed the specs for the proposed pumps in the booster station and thinks that they will be suitable for the pressure needed up north. They would provide constant pressure. The system was designed for Mesabi Metallica, but no upgrades were made when Bozich and the County Garage were included in the water system. Chairman Latvala says the County garage hasn't had any issues since the communications system was installed. Jason Martire said adding two more pumps would create redundancy because the water system was currently running on one pump with no backup. Jamnick said he would like to do a pressure analysis in the spring to understand the users to the north. Jason Martire said that the hydrants in the Bozich Addition failed the hydrant test the last time he tested them, as they did not pump 500 gallons per minute.

Jason noted that these proposed pumps are modern and readily available. The existing pumps are not manufactured anymore so finding replacement parts for that pump model will be difficult. The existing pump would remain in the booster station and the other pumps would be installed to support. They would all alternate in running, which would put less pressure on each pump. The quote doesn't include the electrical component, so installation of the VFDs would need to be done by an electrician. Commissioner Ekholm questioned if there was enough power available in the pump house because the increased need was about 60 amps. Commissioner Martire said he thought there would be enough power available. Commissioner Anderson questioned if running two pumps would cause issues with excess pressure. Lance Hopke said he spoke with JK Mechanical about the pressure, and they don't want more than 170 psi in pressure. Jason said that Automatic Systems would need to add the pumps to the SCADA system, which would help regulate pressure. Commissioner Marinaro stated he wanted a quote for fees from Automatic Systems and JK Mechanical for electrical connection.

\*Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve the quote from Minnesota Pump Works for two 40 HP pumps, 2 VFDs and installation of them within the pump house in the amount of \$55,085.70.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

#### **Water and Sewer Rate for ISD 319**

The Commission would need to establish a rate for water and sewer for the new school. The existing rate study stated that the rate would be established at 1.5 EDU per teacher; however, it did not define who qualified as a teacher and that could mean a fluctuating rate. The Commission debated the value of installing a meter for the school. There is a monthly fee on an electric meter, so the Commission discussed adding a monthly meter fee for any users with water meters.

\*Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Martire to purchase and install a water meter for the new school.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

### **Other Business**

Commissioner Anderson asked for an update regarding the outstanding Mesabi Metallica electrical issues. Jason Martire stated that there were issues with access to the substations, as Minnesota Power did not want contractors in the substations without authorized access. It took some discussion, but a resolution was found regarding the issue. As for the 4kV remediation that was needed, Joe Peterson confirmed via email that Mesabi Metallica had provided a plan for repair with an estimated target date

of May 2025. Peterson confirmed that the timeframe was acceptable and encouraged them to stay on track with those remediation efforts.

**Adjourn**

\*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 1:51 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

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Secretary