

City of Nashwauk
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
April 15, 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 Brian Ekholm, Commissioner Mark Marinaro.

Members absent: Commissioner Mike Anderson.

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

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Commissioner Ekholm, seconded by Commissioner Marinaro to adopt the agenda of the April 15, 2025, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2025, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Claims

*Motion by Chairman Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Martire 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 at the meeting held earlier that day, he learned that Lone Pine Township must put it to a vote before they can enter into debt.

Regarding the wastewater project, Jamnick said there is a manhole issue that needs to be addressed. Jamnick will design specs for the manhole and get a change order drafted from the contractor for the Commission's consideration.

Depreciation Savings Account

April Kurtock shared language from the Joint Sewer Agreement, which outlined the terms for funding depreciation. For the next meeting, she said she would have an estimate for depreciation funding needed based on the language within the agreement; however, for now, the NPUC could create the savings account.

*Motion by Commissioner Ekholm, seconded by Chairman Latvala to create a new savings account with Park State Bank for the purpose of depreciation for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Welding Receptacle

Jason Martire shared that the City has requested funds from Mesabi Metallica to go toward the purchase of welders. Those welders were purchased, and one was intended for the wastewater treatment building. However, a welding receptacle was needed. He obtained a quote from JK Mechanical & Electrical Contractors for the receptacle in the amount of \$1,560.

*Motion by Commissioner Ekholm, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve the quote from JK Mechanical & Electrical Contractors to install a welding receptacle at the wastewater treatment facility building in the amount of \$1,560.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

3rd Street Utility Project Update

John Jamnick shared that applications were submitted again to Klobuchar and Stauber's offices, requesting Congressionally allocated funding for the 3rd Street project.

Water System Follow-up

This project is on hold to see if the new pumps take care of the problem with water pressure for the northern most customers.

Joe Peterson Updates

Joe Peterson said that a decision will be made within the next two weeks if the initial grant application for the city-wide electrical project can move on to the final application. Because Nashwauk also serves a mining operation, the application may be more competitive.

Peterson discussed changes and progress at Mesabi Metallica. Regarding the 4kv issue, Mesabi Metallica is working toward remedy, but Peterson said it likely wouldn't be resolved until June.

Peterson said he and Steve Sherner were working with Minnesota Power regarding relay settings for the Mesabi Metallica substation. However, Minnesota Power had just notified him that they don't have time to help, so he and Steve will work with Mesabi Metallica to establish the settings. Because the substation will be customer owned, it should be the customer providing the settings. Peterson stated for liability reasons, the NPUC shouldn't get involved with figuring out the relay settings and those need to be provided by Mesabi Metallica.

New Business

Booster Station Electrical

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve the quote JK Mechanical & Electrical Contractors for Pump Replacement in the booster station in the amount of \$17,429.

Ayes: Commissioner Marinaro, Commissioner Martire, Chairman Latvala. Nay: Commissioner Ekholm.

Commissioner Ekholm questioned the quote, as it was the only one received but thought the quote was high and additional quotes should have been obtained.

Water Meter Options

Jason Martire provided water meter options for the new school. One meter had a transmitter, and one had a remote.

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Chairman Latvala to purchase the 4" digital water meter with a 50' remote capability from Ferguson in the amount of \$4,645.93.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

The Commission noted the need to establish a water and sewer rate for the school.

Well #4 Repairs

Jason Martire said the Department of Health had flagged repair needs within Well #4, as there were many rusted pieces within the well house. If not repaired, it would create a notice of violation. He obtained two quotes from JK Mechanical & Electrical Contractors for repair work and materials.

*Motion by Commissioner Martire, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm to approve quotes from JK Mechanical & Electrical Contractors related to the south pump house, which were pump house ductile iron work in the amount of \$16,055 and re-pipe work in the amount of \$16,293.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Adjourn

*Motion by Commission Ekholm, seconded by Chairman Latvala to adjourn at 1:56 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Secretary