

**NASHWAUK
PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION
REGULAR AGENDA**

p: 218-885-1210



City of
NASHWAUK
FROM TIMBER TO TACONITE

301 Central Avenue, Nashwauk, Minnesota 55769

NPUC COMMISSION

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025

E. Milton Latvala

Chair

Mike Anderson

Commissioner

Mark Marinaro

Commissioner

Brian Ekholm

Commissioner

Tom Martire

Commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Minutes of the May 20, 2025, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

5. SPECIAL ITEMS

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. East Itasca Joint Sewer Project Update.
- b. 3rd Street Utility Project Update (2026 Project)
- c. Tracking water tower restoration (2028 planning with \$600,000 estimate project costs)
- d. Updates and recommendations from Joe Peterson.
 - i. Two options for electrical repairs/remedy through the alley between 3rd and 4th Street.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider approval of a pump maintenance agreement with Minnesota Pump Works for 6 pumps and the grinder for a fee of \$2,290.25.
- b. Consider disconnection of the non-compliant meter at 113 2nd Street.

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c. Discussion regarding water & sewer charges within the Deering Manor.

d. Discussion regarding water and sewer connections for duplexes.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT. Members of the public are welcome to address the Commission. Please provide your name, a brief description of the subject matter, and keep comments to 5 minutes.

9. ADJOURN

East Itasca Joint Sewer Board
Regular Board Meeting (notes, as no quorum)
May 20, 2025

Jon Korpi called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of Nashwauk City Hall, but noted there was no quorum, so the Board would hold an informational meeting without taking action. Items like claims, Treasurer's Report, and minutes would be approved at next month's meeting.

Members present: Michael LaBine, Jon Korpi.

Members absent: Tom Martire, Greg Heyblom.

Also present: John Jamnick, April Kurtcock, Dick Grabko, Jason Martire, Gary Lamppa.

Jon Korpi noted that there was an invoice received in the amount of \$3,135.80 from Community Resource Development. He issued payment and formal approval of the claim would be approved at the next meeting. He said that the checking account balance was getting low and each entity would be invoiced \$6,000 to cover expenses for the year.

Community Resource Development Update

Dick Grabko said that CRD is looking forward to what needs to be worked on to put project financing together. According to the PFA, they think they will be funded with \$25 million in PSIG and \$75 million in WIF (Water Infrastructure Fund). Gary Lamppa stated he thinks that a bonding bill will be passed.

All information will be submitted to the MPCA so that the project can be certified. Lone Pine Township will also need to request placement on the 2026 Intended Use Plan. There is a formal application, which will need to be completed soon by Jon Korpi. MPCA told Grabko that Lone Pine Township will be one of the first on their list to receive certification. There should be more answers by the time of the next meeting.

Grabko noted that the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund has a deadline, but the application cannot be completed until bids are received so the community knows the level of funding needed. The PSIG application period is July 1-30.

Grabko asked about the grant that IRRRB awarded for resident assessments. Jon Korpi confirmed it was still outstanding.

Regarding needing approval of the township residents before debt can be approved, Grabko said that this is an issue that Lone Pine Township needs to deal with because if there is no approval, there is no project.

There was supposed to be a meeting on May 22, which would have been with the IRRRB Commissioner and legislative representatives to tour projects within Itasca County, but the meeting was cancelled since the legislative session didn't end.

Nashwauk Wastewater Operator Update

Jason Martire reported that everything was running normally at the facility.

Engineering Update

John Jamnick asked if Keewatin was pursuing an additional project. Michael LaBine said they were looking at bigger pumps and a muffin monster within their lift station. Jamnick asked if the pipe was large enough to accommodate the larger pumps. The Keewatin engineer informed them that it was. Keewatin still needs to decommission their existing plant. Jamnick said the MPCA strongly encouraged Nashwauk to pursue the installation of the muffin monster.

Other Business

Jon Korpi said he attended the public meeting for the Calumet/Marble wastewater discussions. They opted to go for the option to rebuild their existing system at an estimated \$20 million cost. There were four options total. The 2nd option was to connect to the Nashwauk plant, which their engineer estimated at \$28 million. The 3rd option was building a pond system for \$30 million. And the 4th option was a whole new plant which would cost \$40 million.

The meeting ended at 9:48 a.m.

Secretary

City of Nashwauk
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
May 20, 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.

Members absent: Commissioner Mark Marinaro, Commissioner Brian Ekholm.

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

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Martire to adopt the agenda of the May 20, 2025, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

*Motion by Commissioner Martire, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Claims

*Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Chairman Latvala 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

There was not a quorum at the East Itasca Joint Sewer Board meeting held earlier that day, but the attending members received an update from Community Resource Development. The project needs a bonding bill to be passed, and if that happens, it would be a 2026 project. Commissioner Anderson noted there was a meeting scheduled for May 22 with the IRRRB Commissioner and legislative leaders, but it was cancelled because they didn't finish their session. Jamnick noted that change order information had not been received yet from the contractor. A grant extension request was submitted, but no confirmation had been received from PFA yet.

3rd Street Utility Project Update

John Jamnick said that the IUP request for the CWRP and DWRP are due next Friday.

Water Tower Restoration

The water tower restoration project is estimated to be a 2028 project with an estimated cost of \$600,000. Commissioner Martire stated that money needed to be set aside for this project. The Commission discussed rate increases. Administrator/Clerk Kurtcock said she would bring a rate increase for consideration forward to the next meeting.

Joe Peterson Updates

Joe Peterson said when a powerline came down a few weeks ago, the line crew patched and spliced the line again, but the wire is brittle, so breaks will continue to happen. He presented a quote from Border States for ACSR Wire and OH secondary for on-hand repairs. The wire would work well for a span replacement in the future, too. He suggested replacing the problematic span of wire and if the Commission wanted him to work on that. He noted that electrical poles will need to be replaced, too, as they will need to be taller to accommodate the needs of the span. The Commission had purchased many electrical poles last year in anticipation of future needs. The Commission agreed to have Joe Peterson look at the problematic area and come up with a replacement proposal.

*Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Martire to purchase the ACSR wire and OH secondary from Border States in the amount of \$5,405.73.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

New Business

Indemnification Agreement

There was an indemnification agreement drafted for substation relays between Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and Mesabi Metallics Company, LLC. Joe Peterson shared that Mesabi Metallics doesn't own the breakers, but they're dedicated for their purposes, so they need to set them up for how they'll operate, even though Nashwauk owns them. The agreement covers Nashwauk for liability and Mesabi Metallics take ownership of the issue if something goes wrong. The document has been reviewed by attorneys of both parties.

*Motion by Commissioner Martire, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the indemnification agreement for substation relays between Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and Mesabi Metallics Company, LLC.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Joe Peterson provided an update for electrical related items happening at Mesabi Metallics and their power needs. They will be using the Calumet substation soon. He noted there was a meeting earlier today to outline upcoming activities. Regarding the 4kv issue, Mesabi Metallics figured the remedy would happen in July.

Adjourn

*Motion by Commissioner Martire, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 1:45 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Secretary

April Kurtock

From: Joe Peterson <jpeterson@ireacs.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 5:50 PM
To: April Kurtock; Jason Martire; Lance Hopke
Subject: Re: Alley Between 3rd and 4th St

Hello,

I talked with MP Systems about a reduced scope option to help make this an easier option. It would not get things up to code (if not already), but would avoid additional breaks in the conductor in that stretch. They could focus only on reconductoring with the 1/0 ACSR we recently purchased (I'd recommend picking up another bunch of it for reserve so you still have a decent supply for other areas) and would only replace insulators/etc. that are damaged or otherwise in need of repair. The conductor weight/tension should be comparable and leave things structurally/electrically in a comparable state but remedy the issues with the brittle conductor, so it would be a net improvement and be fully resolved during the future rebuild/voltage conversion effort.

It would be a 2-day thing (mainly paced to avoid rush and give time to handle any issues). The first day would be a 4-hour outage to spread the phases and hang dollies for pulling the wire in. If it broke, the outage would likely need to be extended for repairs and maybe a full work scope in 1 day. The second day would be tying it in, transferring transformers to the new feed, etc. and cleanup (short outages for smaller portions as they go). Materials would be the wire, some crossarms, pins, dead end shoes, preform ties, and cutouts.

Initially, he was looking at a Sat/Sun thing due to when he could get a crew free from MP's work (if they can't break free for a full week, partials are difficult). Since they're helping on Mt Iron work as well, I talked about them combining the projects at both to fill a week and Torsten is looking at the option. That would avoid weekend costs (saving \$3k-\$5k or so) and be easier to deal with. One concern I had with weekend work on that stretch was the 2 churches.

Cost for their labor would be around \$20k (2 days for a 4-man crew and equipment) and materials around \$5k-\$8k (less if we used the wire we just got, but replacement cost considered). This puts a total in the \$25k-\$30k range.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts or questions.

Thank you.
Joe

From: Joe Peterson <jpeterson@ireacs.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 10:04 AM
To: April Kurtock <akurtock@nashwaukmn.gov>; Jason Martire <jMartire@NashwaukMN.gov>; Lance Hopke <lhopke@nashwaukmn.gov>
Subject: Alley Between 3rd and 4th St

Good morning,

I looked at the alley work with Torsten yesterday evening. I think we have a reasonable feel for what it would take.

There are a total of 19 poles in the stretch (one is a secondary/shorter pole, I would make it full height and part of the line). It looked like we have enough 45' class 3 to get it done with what is in the boneyard.

The total distance is ~1,800' and the 1/0 ACSR we just ordered would cover it (including adding a dedicated neutral, the current one is shared with the secondary). We would not replace the secondary at this time to keep costs reasonable and minimize outages (though it is likely some services will need to be replaced/added to for services with the taller poles).

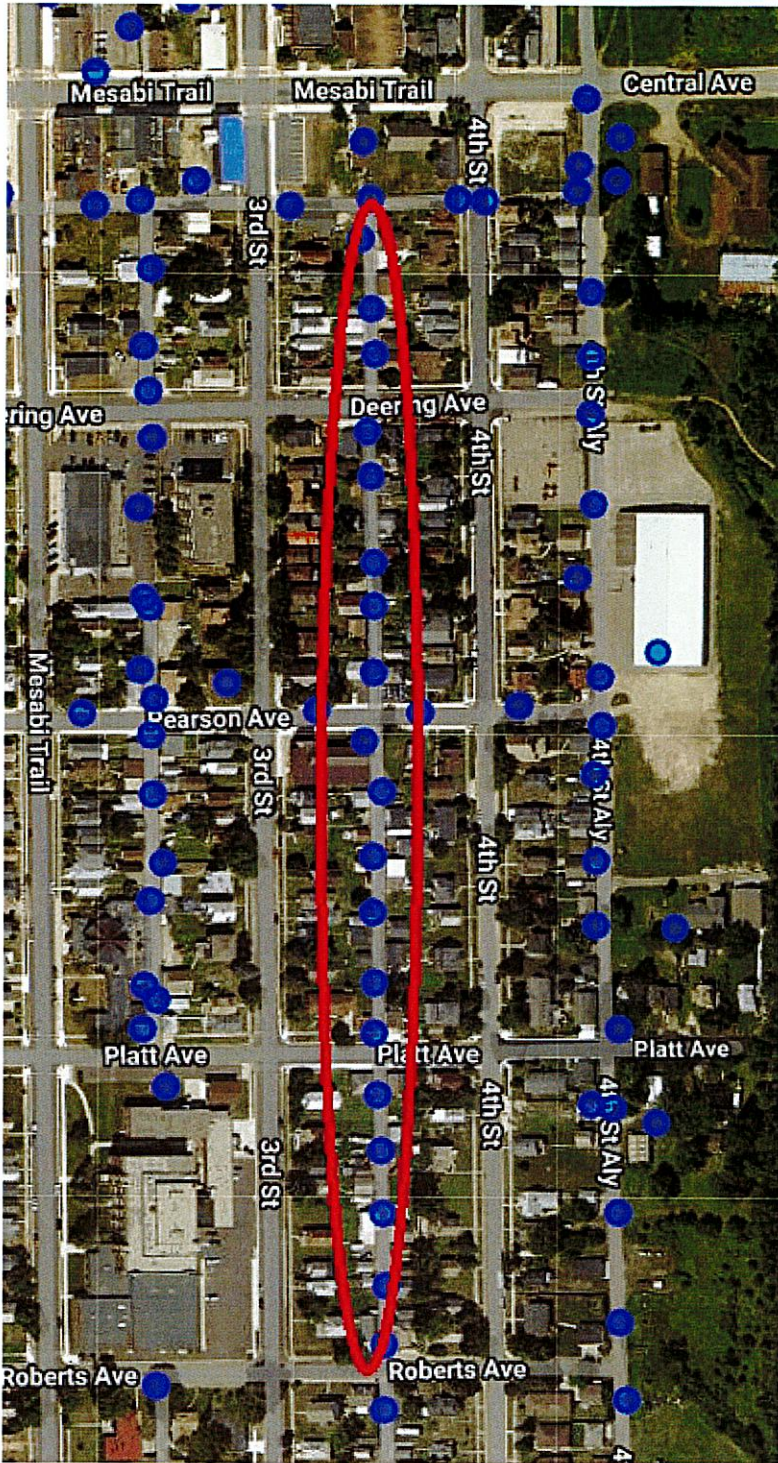
Torsten gave a budgetary idea of about 2 weeks for a 4 person crew with some of his support (4 people, 10 days, 10 hour days). With equipment, this would be around \$100k. We would need/want to figure out logistics of how busy the underground stuff is near the poles/etc. to know if a hydrovac would be needed. Assuming the conductor could be spread without breaking, outages could be greatly minimized (some time to spread the conductors on arms, some for pulling conductor, some for cutting over customers). The alley would need to have minimal traffic during the work to avoid risk and avoid the crews working. The goal would be full replacement/transfer of power to the new build (it would be above the existing) and cleanup/wreck out of the existing, with poles topped for comm to do their transfers. If time ran short that week, there may be some follow-up cleanup for another time.

On top of the line crew labor, we'd be looking at additional materials. Things like crossarms, insulators, cutouts, bolts/hardware, etc. For budgetary purposes, I would estimate that in the area of \$15k-\$25k. That assumes we either have enough transformers already or would re-use (to shorten outages, we'd want to replace what is up there and could re-use those elsewhere as needed).

Engineering shouldn't be too bad on this with the short spans, relatively small conductor, and plans for replacing secondaries as part of the overall town rebuild/conversion. Structurally/clearance wise, I don't expect any problems, and it would more be to dial in material needs.

This puts the overall estimated cost around \$115k-\$125k (considering the poles as no cost since they are already on hand, those are probably \$10k-\$15k worth [without looking back at the order]).

Please let me know your thoughts and any questions.



Thank you.

Joe Peterson, PE (MN, WI, IA, IL, MI, ND)
Owner/Principal Engineer
Iron Range Engineering and Consulting Services, PLLC
PO Box 397
Forbes, MN 55738
Cell: (218) 996-5301



SCHEDULED PUMP MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Date Prepared: 06/02/2025
Total Number of Stations: 3 & Muffin Monster
Number of Inspections per Year: 1

Prepared By: Justin MacPherson /Jenny Braith
Number of Pumps to be Inspected: 6 & Grinder
Months Service be Performed: Customer Choice

Fee for this Service Agreement: \$2,290.25 per Inspection (confined space)

Maintenance for pumps. Pump info will be documented at time of service.

Customer Name: City of Nashwauk
Contact Name: Jason Martire
Phone Number: 218-885-1221
Cell Phone: 218-969-4448
Email: jMartire@NashwaukMN.gov

Pump Brand(s): Various
Horse Power: Various

TERMS

Any additional repairs (service labor, parts and trip charges) will be performed only after authorization and will be an additional charge. Pumps in dry pit stations shall be inspected in the station, and not removed. **If confined space entry is required, an additional fee of \$175 per station entered shall be charged.**

This agreement price includes all trip charges, overnight stays and service time. A written report of the findings will be supplied to the owner. Prior to all inspections, the owner will be notified of our impending visit.

All unscheduled service or emergency calls and repairs are in addition to this periodic preventative maintenance agreement.

All parts and labor are subject to the manufacturer's published warranty.

The fee for this maintenance agreement shall be guaranteed for two years and payable when the service is performed and billed. Payment terms are Net 30. **If you would like to elect a three year service agreement at the guaranteed pricing listed above, please check this box.**

Minnesota Pump Works assumes no liability for loss of use or for any direct, indirect or consequential damage of any kind with respect to the use or operation of pumps, any equipment or accessories covered in this agreement.

This agreement shall be effective from its signed date and shall continue in effect until termination by either party upon 30 days prior written notice.

The owner's responsibility will be:

- A) Have a representative available to allow entry to pumps.
- B) Disposal of all waste.

Accepted by: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

A signed and dated copy of this maintenance agreement must be faxed to (507) 645-7533 or emailed to Minnesota Pump Works at info@minnesotapumpworks.com. The effective date of the maintenance agreement will be the date the form is signed, dated and returned.

April Kurtock

From: Amber Goss
Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 4:19 PM
To: April Kurtock
Subject: some things to think about

Here are some things I am thinking about we need to think about/work on for public utilities.

We need to revamp the deering manor. The public utilities should not have to deal with people not paying their water/sewer bills with no repercussions. I think we need to look at changing the structure of the billing for those places for water/sewer.

I also think we need to look at duplexes as we are stuck on those as well. We need to do this a better way so we have the ability to turn off water if needed. Either that, or I no longer threaten to turn it off and we just watch the past due sky rocket.

We need to consider disconnecting the meter at AK storage. If they sell that building, it will be the 3rd owner through that building that has not taken care of the meter upgrade. I think that might be the only way to get this meter taken care of.

These are my Friday thoughts.

Kind Regards,

Amber C. Goss

Deputy Clerk
City of Nashwauk
Ph 218-885-1210
Fax 218-885-1305