

Otter Lake Water Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023

Chairman, Jake Rettberg, with all Commissioners present except Larry Mouser and John Ulery convened the regular meeting of the Otter Lake Water Commission at 5:00 pm with John Gudgel arriving at 5:10 pm. Others present included Joe Hogan, Denzel Jines, Dennis Ross, and Meghan Theel.

MINUTES:

Dave Skinner made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on September 12, 2023. Jake Rettberg seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote with Sutton voting present.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

Josh Carnduff spoke about adding a new person to his lot lease and provided the documentation for board review showing that they live in the same household. Tish Robinson and Kristi McClean addressed the board about their concerns with the waiting list and lot lease name change procedures. A list of seven current lease holders who want name changes completed on their lease was presented to the board for review. After some discussion regarding three current leaseholders, Mike McCarthy made a motion to approve changes to 154n, 32w, 61as pending a signed and notarized affidavit to add an additional name to their current lease. Dave Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Upon additional discussion regarding the remaining four leaseholders on the list, Jake Rettberg made a motion that 59s, 96n, 52aw, and 18w will be denied. We will send out letters giving information on the appeal process. These leaseholders can appeal by additional documentation. If such is provided, a final decision will be made at the next meeting. Mike McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote

BILL LIST:

Terry Davis made a motion to approve the bills for September totaling \$310,521.16 for payment. Dave Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.
Dave Skinner made a motion to approve the bills for October totaling \$406,272.89 for payment. John Gudgel seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

RECREATION:

Park Financial Report:

Total income for September was \$21,891.13 with a year to date of \$394,635.35.

Total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for September is \$30,053.97. With a total owed to date of \$57,092.73.

Total income for October was \$114,848.38 with a year to date of \$509,483.73.

Total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for October is \$19,888.54. With a total owed to date of \$0.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dennis Ross reported:

- **Lot Lease:** Lease payments and signed leases have been rolling in meeting the November 1st deadline, as with every year we have a few paying the \$15 per day late fee. We currently have

5 leases that are not being renewed. On average, we have 8 to 12 lease holders who drop out at the end of each season. Currently there are 174 names on the waiting list.

- **Bait Shop**: Bait shop hours are now reduced to 7-3 Wednesday to Monday. We will close December 3rd and Shannon's last day this season is December 15th, she will return February 19th.
- **North Shower House**: The North shower house project is under construction; the footings have been poured and the block foundation walls are up. Roughed in plumbing is to be installed the week of November 6th and flatwork poured the week of November 13th. The trusses are on order and several of the items we will need as construction continues are either purchased or on order. The shower house will be completed before the water comes on April 15, 2024.
- **Fishing**: With cooler and wet weather coming in the muskie fishing is in full swing, this muskie was below the legal limit to keep, though I doubt any muskie fishermen keep the 42" muskie.
- **Last Day**: My last day of the season will of November 20th. I will be returning on March 3rd; it was another great year at the campground!

OLD BUSINESS:

None to report

NEW BUSINESS:

- We have received the renewal rates from Health Alliance for the employee's health insurance. The renewal rate shows an increase by 4% for 2024. There was a 7.50% increase for 2023. David Skinner made a motion to approve the 2024 health insurance renewal rates as presented. Terry Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Joe Hogan reported:

- **Thayer Tank Project**- The tank rehabilitation project is complete. There are a few punch list items left that the contractor will need to take care of. We have received our final operating permit from IEPA, which was needed before the tank could go back into use. As of last week, the tank is operational.
- **ISAWWA Board Meeting**- Last month, I traveled upstate to attend a section board meeting as the district 3 trustee. The section also had their annual fall regulatory update the night before, so I was able to attend that as well. The sessions were mainly focused on lead, lead service line replacements, and emerging contaminants such as PFOS and PFOA.
- **Route 104 Project**- Scott Hunt and I have been continuing to meet with landowners concerning easements. We have acquired multiple signed easements already. There are a few others we have a verbal for, just waiting for the signed documents. We have also started the IEPA loan paperwork and financial document review, as well as submitted our permit application.
- **Holiday Party**- We will have our annual holiday party again this year at Mick and Mary's in Thayer. The event will be on Friday, December 1st.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Denzel Jines reported:

- **Water Quality**- October 2023 saw an average lake temp of 65 degrees and an average Ph of 8.0. The lake level was recorded at 618.5'. MIB and Geosmin sample results are listed below. We are operating the UV system in disinfection mode only.
 - **MIB and Geosmin Sample Results**
 - October 9, 2023 Raw Geosmin 4.8 ng/L and finished Geosmin 2 ng/L
 - October 9, 2023 Raw MIB 15 ng/L and finished MIB 12 ng/L
- **New Operator**- Ben Sergent started with us October 16, 2023. We have begun training him in plant operations. He has completed 2 weeks of day shift operations. We will be doing 2 more weeks of second shift training in November then getting him familiarized with the distribution system.
- **Off Site Training**- Garrett, Jordan, and I attended a training class at Taylorville's water treatment plant on the upcoming regulations on PFAS and PFOS compounds and on the different types of chlorination for disinfection.
- **Winterizing**- The crew has winterized everything at the plant and throughout the system that required it in preparation for the colder weather.
- **Dredging**- We have wrapped up dredging operations and will be breaking down the dredge setup for storage next month.
- **Distribution System**- On October 26, 2023, there was a service line leak at 750 W Glenarm Rd. The crew exposed the service line and found the leak to be in the middle of the road. The crew pulled in a new service line restoring service to the customer.
- **Distribution System Grading**- The crew has landscaped the areas in which we have recently had leaks. They graded, tilled, seeded, and laid straw at 65 Covered Bridge Acres and 5000 Dickey John.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- At 6:45 pm the Board entered Executive Session to discuss personnel. At 7:46 pm the Board came out of Executive Session.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Dave Skinner made a motion to approve employee raises as proposed by the Compensation Committee and presented to the Board in Executive Session. John Gudgel seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

At 7:55 pm Jake Rettberg made a motion to adjourn. John Gudgel seconded the motion. With no further business to discuss the meeting was unanimously adjourned. The next Commission Meeting will be at the Commission Office - 6475 W Montgomery Road in Virden on Tuesday December 12, 2023, at 5:00 pm.

Meghan Theel

APPROVED BY THE BOARD – 12.12.2023.