May 12, 2025 **UTILITIES COMMITTEE** **8:30 a.m.**

Chairperson Larry Grisen called the meeting to order with the following members present: Larry Grisen, David Earney and Randy Brommer (zoom).

Also present: Cheri Bunker resident at 603 N. 2nd St, Mayor Richard Champeny, Foreman Joe Wick, Bernie Bartz and Calvin Loewenhagen-crew, and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Torgerson.

No citizens were present.

Agenda VII (b) Sidewalks/retaining walls update on tree removal and bush/vine removal near retaining walls.

Cheri Bunker, resident at 603 N. 2nd Street, addressed the committee regarding the tree that is scheduled to be removed by her property. Bunker stated that she felt the wall had not moved or been damaged by the tree and would like to keep the tree. She further stated that the shade from the tree cuts down on her energy costs to cool her home. She further inquired about the proof that the trees are the problem for the retaining walls.

Chairperson Grisen stated that there was a survey done to determine whose property the trees, bush, and vegetation were on. Contractor Sorenson informed the committee that the trees and water coming behind the walls was the problem. Grisen stated that the top 8' will be reconstructed.

Joe informed Cheri about the process involved in fixing the retaining walls. Earth has to be removed, and tiles set in place. The tree would hinder the work that needs to be done so that the retaining walls can be fixed.

The committee concurred with proceeding with the tree, brush, and vine removal as proposed.

The tree removal company is removing the trees today and Xcel has done work in the alleys as well, Foreman Wick stated.

Cal Loewenhagen stated that the tree in question is near the sewer line and tree roots will seek out water and get into the sewer lines.

Agenda Item VII (a) bidding process.

The committee discussed the bidding process. Joe stated that when the job is bid, it includes everything involved in the project, so it is a final bid. He further stated that a general contractor should be involved who would manage the project and all the subcontractors.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney for the committee to meet with Sorenson and formulate a bid request and then publish the bid request in the paper. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Dave Earney informed the committee that the CTH E retaining wall, Tritsch's Hill, needs repair. Linda will draft a letter to the Buffalo County Highway Committee regarding this matter.

Agenda Item VII (c) Progress status on retaining walls inventory.

Linda informed the committee that Cal and herself have met and have approximately five blocks done and will continue when time permits.

Agenda Item VII (d) Update on Bluff Street viewing platform.

Randy Brommer informed the committee that any platform or new construction by the City for the Bluff Street staircase would have to meet ADA requirements in order to obtain a grant. Brommer further stated that the application would have to be accompanied by shelf ready plans.

The committee discussed the water run off once the stairs at Bluff Street are removed and that it should be coordinated with the Lift Station #4 project.

Motion by Earney seconded by to investigate the water run off plan at Bluff Street and the stairway removal. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item VII (e) Discuss ADA compliant stairway renovation of Elm Street- WISDOT Tap Grant.

Larry Grisen informed the committee that he has been in contact with Randy Kirk regarding funding for the ADA compliant staircase at Elm Street. The Tap Grant is an 80/20 split. An online seminar will be held, and applications have to be submitted in June. Larry will keep everyone updated.

Agenda Item VII (f) Sidewalk repair projects.

Joe informed the committee that there will be sidewalk replacement at 601 S. Main (John Elliott property) due to the water leak, in front of Sarah Buehler's residence on North 2nd St., storm drains, etc.

Agenda Item VII (g) Other sidewalk/stairs/retaining wall concerns.

Dave Earney inquired about the wall on 2nd and Cedar. This is a city wall; however, it is strongly built Cal commented.

Agenda Item IV (a) Streets – street sweeping update.

Joe informed the committee that he started the sweeping project, however, due to other items taking precedence over the sweeping, he has not got back to it. Randy Brommer commented that the crew had done a terrific job with the street sweeping thus far.

(b) Alley brushing update.

Joe stated that it is being done this week, and it started today.

(c) Gerhart tree removal request.

The tree is behind the residence at 902 S. 2nd Street. Joe will look into this matter. It is complicated since there is no access to the city alley.

(d) Update of 5-year street improvement plan for 2026-2031

The committee reviewed the 5-year street improvement plan and came up with the following:

2026

Chip Seal:

Riverview Drive

2027

Chip seal:

Alma Public (downtown) cemetery
Hillview Street
Lake Street

2028

Chip Seal:

Beach Harbor Road
Sunset Drive
High School Road
*Dunand Road using LRIP funding

2029

Chip Seal:

Buena Vista Road

Motion by Brommer seconded by Earney to approve the 5-year street improvement plan with the noted changes. All members voting yes.

(e) DPC beacon signage for JPM

Motion by Grisen seconded by Brommer to authorize Clerk Torgerson to sign the WI DOT application for the DPC beacon sign. All members voting yes.

Mayor Champeny stated that all correspondence with Dairyland Power should include wordage that there will be no expense to the City of Alma.

(e) Any other street concerns.

Randy Brommer inquired if the state would be doing the blacktop work where the water digs were done on South Main. Joe informed the committee, yes, they will be doing the work.

Agenda Item V (a) Sewer and wastewater. Lift Station #4 change order #2 approval.

There will be cost savings of $7,500.00 in Change Order #2 for the Lift Station #4 Project by going from a full demolition to a partial demolition and partial abandonment.

Motion by Earney seconded by Brommer to recommend Council approval of Change Order #2 for the Lift Station #4 project as presented. All members voting yes.

(b) Storm drain issue on N. Main

No update.

(c) Lift Station #3 emergency repair.

Larry Grisen informed the committee that he gave prior authorization to sign a work order to fix the bearings on one of the Lift Station #3 pumps since it was an emergency repair needed. B & M Mechanical is the company that was approved to do the work at a cost of $7,932.00.

Motion by Earney seconded by Brommer to approve the pre-authorization given by Larry Grisen to repair the Lift Station #3 bearings for one of the pumps in the amount of $7,932. All members voting yes.

(d) Other sewer and wastewater concerns.

Bernie Bartz, operator, informed the committee that there are bearings out for the RBCs. The approximate cost is $6,000.00. Bernie felt that more bearings should be fixed. Discussion was held.

Motion by Earney seconded by Grisen for the city crew to proceed with ordering one bearing for the RBCs in the amount of $6,000.00 and replace an additional bearing at the next billing cycle. All members voting yes.

Agenda Item VI (a) Water – update on 2nd Street water issue.

Discussion was held regarding the water issue on 2nd Street. Bernie will order test kits to have the water tested at homes and hydrants and they will be sent to Davy Labs for analysis.

(b) Foreman Wick's meeting with City of Eau Claire representative.

No update.

(c) Discussion of testing of sediment after water line flushing.

Samples will be sent to Davy Labs for analysis.

(d) Water line leaks on S. Main repairs.

Bernie informed the committee that there are photos and notes that document the leak repairs on South Main and also the new water line for service to 209 N. 2nd St.

(e) Other water concerns. None.

VIII. Citizen comments on non-posted agenda items.

None present.

Next meeting will be Monday, June 9, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Motion by Brommer seconded by Earney to adjourn. All members voting yes.