

Wisconsin PSC rules against Kaukauna's claims with sewer interceptor project

By Tom Collins
Reporter

After a hearing on Thursday, June 13, the City of Kaukauna learned each of its appeals regarding the charges for the Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District were denied.

While the city officials hadn't received the full written report as of the June 17 Public Works Board session, City Engineer and Public Works Director John Neumeier reported each claim was voted down by the PSC.

The city contended the overall charges were too high, according to Neumeier, since he said 25 percent of the city's waste does not go through the HOV interceptor. Neumeier said that involves two lift stations.

The second part of the city's claims involved a difference between the city and the HOV regarding the type of assessment method for the project. Neumeier said the city preferred to use what is called the "reach" method rather than the volumetric method the HOV is using for the project.

The city contends the reach method charges them at a fairer rate. It also means more of the project costs would be shifted to Kimberly and Little Chute, a scenario the city also believes is a fairer method of assessment for the HOV interceptor project.

Neumeier said the city will pay three times what they think they should be paying for the interceptor project.

Neumeier said the votes were 3-0 against the volumetric versus reach charging method and 2-1 regarding the city's concern that 25 percent of

its waste does not enter the HOV interceptor.

Neumeier said the next steps include the city reviewing the full PSC report when it arrives and then consulting with its law firm, Boardman and Clark. One option the city could choose is taking the matter to court on appeal.

The agendized closed session regarding the PSC results was pulled since the city still is waiting for additional information.

Additional news was made during the health and recreation meeting.

The good news in recent years is Kaukauna taverns continued their progress of note in recent years of working with the city's police department to avoid troublesome violations that, at least in the past, caused some facilities problems with their liquor license renewal.

At the June 17 edition of the city's health and recreation committee one facility stood out among the city's numerous facilities for its violations. In their case, there are several standing violations with the Kaukauna Fire Department for apparent fire suppression and sprinkler repairs that need to be made. The facility also owed 2023 back taxes totaling \$1,500 as of the June 17 meeting.

Committee members discussed what could happen to the city business. A number of penalties were on the table. One is a series of fines that can accumulate if the fire suppression system is not repaired. The facility incurred a \$338 fine earlier this year for its fire code violations.

In addition to the facility's sprinkler/fire suppression situation there was a violation concerning the kitchen range hood. It had not been

inspected and kept up to date. Still another situation involving expired fire extinguishers was corrected. The fire code violations were considered recurring and came after several inspections by the fire department.

The fines are progressive and could quickly double and triple into hundreds more dollars if the current situations are not rectified. The facility was given a date in a letter from the fire department to rectify the fire code problems or begin with a \$338 fine if the facility did not take action.

With the annual liquor license renewal period looming, the June 30 deadline becomes important since the tavern could face not having its liquor license renewed.

The city could choose to enforce a more extreme penalty if actions are not taken by the local facility to correct the tax and fire suppression situations. That step could mean locking the business doors until some is resolved.

The committee separated the tavern's liquor license from the group of other city businesses applying for the annual license renewals. After discussion about the business with its multiple concerns, the committee members voted to offer a conditional license renewal pending progress on both the taxes owed and the fire department concerns. The business was given a deadline of June 30 to show progress or not have its liquor license renewed.

The night of board and committee meetings included holding two closed sessions. Both of those came during the finance and personnel committee meeting and each cen-

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