

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop
October 16, 2012
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN
6:00 p.m.

1. Discuss strategy for meeting with MPCA on October 17, 2012 regarding WWTP permit

The City will meet with representatives from the MPCA on October 17, 2012 regarding renewal of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit. Director Wiskow voiced his concerns on the increased costs which will be imposed by MPCA regulations.

The MPCA is requiring the City to test samples from Elbow Lake located approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the Eveleth Wastewater Treatment Plant. The MPCA is looking specifically for levels of phosphorous. Director Wiskow indicated that phosphorus does not disappear over the years and there may be numerous potential sources of phosphorus in the lake. The City of Eveleth monitors and meets discharge standards as required. Wiskow questioned the reasoning why Eveleth citizens would be required to pay for testing waters “some six-plus miles downstream of the treatment plant.”

2. Discuss filling Water/Wastewater Operator Position

Director Wiskow said the City advertised and sent out notices regarding the Water/Wastewater Operator position. Three applicants were received, and one candidate interviewed. Wiskow said at this point the City has not received a retirement notice from the current Wastewater Operator.

3. Proposed Range Mental Health Renovation

Councilor Koivunen gave an overview on the request from Range Mental Health to construct an outdoor smoking shelter.

4. Dan McCourtney, Minnesota Power, regarding proposed high voltage transmission line route

Dan McCourtney, Minnesota Power, addressed the Council. United Taconite is planning to expand which will require the power line to be extended. The City Garage and Wastewater Plant would be in the vicinity of the power line extension. Director Mike Wiskow expressed his concerns about dumping sand near the garage and getting cranes in near the Wastewater Plant if necessary. Wiskow thought it would be better to push the lines to the edge of the property.

McCourtney gave the preferred route due to right of ways and property history. He said it will take at least six months to get the project permitted.

5. Council Updates

6. Agenda Q&A

The November 8th Council Meeting will be held for anyone wanting to attend Tom Rukavina's retirement party.

The following item was added to the Agenda:

J9. United Way of Northeastern Minnesota Application for Lawful Gambling