

The Brainerd Public Utilities Commission emergency meeting was held at 12:00 PM on Monday, September 8, 2014.

Commission President Donald Samuelson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Roll Call

Lucy Nesheim – Present
Don Samuelson - Present
William Wroolie – Present

Mark O'Day – Present
Donald Sievek – Present

Utility Staff Present

Secretary/Finance Director
Superintendent of Utilities
Accounting Supervisor
Technology Supervisor
Wastewater Treatment Supervisor
Recording Secretary

Todd Wicklund
Scott Magnuson
Julie Batters
Scott Sjolund
Mike Larson
Sharon Jensen

Others in Attendance

Brainerd City Administrator
Brainerd City Councilmember
Brainerd Mayor
Brainerd Public Schools
Brainerd Dispatch
MN DNR
MN DNR
Brainerd Citizen
Brainerd Citizen

Patrick Wussow
Gary Scheeler
James Wallin
Earl Wolleat
Jessie Perrine
Carl Mills
Marc Bacigalupi
Guy Green
Jeff Czczok

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the chlorination of Brainerd's water supply due to watermain break which occurred on September 8th and the resultant boil order issued by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Chlorination of Brainerd's Water Supply

Superintendent Scott Magnuson updated the Commission on the events leading up to the boil order for Brainerd's water supply.

While the million gallon water tower on Front Street is down for repairs Brainerd's water system is utilizing the 600,000 gallon water tower on the former BRHSC campus to maintain pressure. At approximately 4:00 AM on September 4th the Central Station operator noticed a drop in pressure. Staff started looking for the cause at that time. At 7:00 AM a major storm with wind gusts of approximately 70 mph hits Brainerd and causes a widespread power outage which resulted in loss of power to service pumps that are used to maintain water pressure. Staff starts to receive low water pressure calls. Power restored to Central at approximately 8:30 AM. Loss of water pressure reported to MDH and the precautionary boil order was recommended by MDH starting Thursday afternoon. Twelve water tests were taken from

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various locations in Brainerd on Thursday afternoon with the results being confirmed at 5:50 PM on Friday afternoon since the test being performed is a 24 hour process. The results were that one of the tests was positive for total coliform, but negative for E-coli, therefore the boil order was extended until further notice.

On the morning of September 6th Staff met with MDH official to discuss chlorination options and it was decided to start chlorinating the water supply starting at 6:00 PM on Saturday evening.

Magnuson noted that MDH had contacted him this morning and stated the State would assist Brainerd in conducting 30 additional water tests starting this afternoon. If the test results are negative the boil order would be lifted however there needs to be a commitment from Brainerd that the City would chlorinate at least 30 days.

In order for the chlorine to be effective 3 parts per million needed to be injected into the water supply. Water crew began flushing on September 7th to draw the water to the farthest parts of the system. Once the chlorine is detected in to outlying areas it will be dropped to 1 part per million. Citizens might notice a slight discoloration and odor in the water as the chlorine works its way through the water system.

Magnuson stated he had started checking into the cost associated with permanent chlorination and it appears the cost would approximately be \$20,000 to upgrade current equipment plus a potential \$50,000 if air scrubbers are required by MDH. There is also the potential that a separate room would have to be added to Central Station. One benefit for permanent chlorination is that current copper/lead tests would no longer be required.

General discussion followed including the following items:

- How the MDH determines that a month is long enough.
- Riverside Drive-booster station does have a small amount of bleach added to water.
- DNR hatchery for walleye fingerlings permanent changes would need to be made if Brainerd decides to permanently chlorinate the water supply.
- Brainerd School District costs during the boil order.
- Notification of the public.
- Authority of the Brainerd Public Utilities Commission regarding decision of permanent chlorination
- Fire service protection during low water pressure
- Utility contact by the Public
- Un-fluoridated water tap at Central Station
- Distribution of donated water bottles

Motion by Commissioner Nesheim and seconded by Commissioner Wroolie to chlorinate the Brainerd water system for a minimum of 30 days or until downtown water tower is put back into service and water tests related to tower recommission are negative. There was a unanimous roll call vote in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner O'Day asked staff to put permanent chlorination on the agenda of next Commission meeting and to have City Attorney research which governing body has the authority to make the decision.

Adjournment

Commissioner O'Day motioned at 12:28 PM to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.