

**UTILITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
December 21, 2022**

Present: Jan Kahler, Abby Gehl, Aaron Eltrich and Robert Herring

Absent: Megan Andresen

Chairperson Kahler called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

Motion by Eltrich; seconded by Gehl to approve the agenda. All Ayes

Motion by Gehl; seconded by Eltrich to approve the minutes. All Ayes

Audience: None

Old Business: none

New Business:

- A. Discussion and Approval of Resolution No. 2022-5 – A Resolution Adopting an Electric Reliability Plan for Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility

Krogman reported an Electric Reliability Plan is required to be updated annually per the Iowa Administrative Code. Copies of the plan were dispersed to the board for their review. Highlighted we inspect our system and customers have a 24-hour call center for outages in which we do our best to respond and restore power. This resolution approves the updated plan. On motion of Eltrich, second of Gehl; all ayes Resolution No. 2022-5 was approved.

- B. Discussion and Possible Motion to Approve Quote for Unit 7 Tank Replacement

Per Krogman the tank replacement has been on the goals about 5 years; prices in the budget have been quite low. AJ Bowman, plant superintendent, first quote received was \$101,000; have discussed doing it ourselves. This tank goes in the basement so it has to be built in place. Biggest concern is it's the biggest unit and the time it will be down. Reached out for additional quotes to see if it could get done cheaper and faster. Farabee Mechanical, did our catalyst work so familiar with the plant, quote came in at \$63,650- not enough workers to complete in spring maybe later in the year yet no guarantees. Keeney from Miles quoted just shy of \$60,000 and Kilburg Welding/ Anderson Welding from Zwingle/ Platteville has welded tanks similar to our tank before and quoted \$29,540 for material (about \$15,000) and fabrication of the tank. Bowman asked a few questions of Kilburg to clarify we are getting all requirements for the job met for the quoted price. With the two higher

quotes would have taken out the old, built the new and then hooked it up. Our employees will be able to disconnect and reconnect the new tank once built. Bowman commented “seems like no brainer; can learn a little bit and maybe build the next smaller tank.” Krogman added the only restriction is WPPI has requested that this unit not be taken out of service over the winter; looking at spring during generation downtime. Brief discussion held. Motion by Eltrich, second by Gehl; all ayes to accept the bid of \$29,540 from Anderson Welding to fabricate tank replacement for Unit 7.

C. Discussion and Possible Motion Regarding MMEU Board Meeting Dates for 2023

Krogman presented the schedule for the Utility’s monthly board meeting to be held the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in Maquoketa City Hall council chambers. Motion by Eltrich, second by Gehl; all ayes to accept 2023 board meeting schedule as presented.

Approval of Claims:

Krogman reported Bowman has been watching fuel prices and found a vendor in Wisconsin which sends daily delivered prices. This particular load was purchased at the near low and the price has been on rise since. Kahler questioned the claim for Power Safe San Jar Batteries. Bowman replied they are for backup to run all the breaker controls. A battery bank was rented from Shermco since we were having issues with the generators. Per Krogman these batteries will now be on a replacement schedule.

Herring entered the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Motion by Eltrich; seconded by Gehl to approve the claims as presented. All ayes.

Budget Discussions:

Krogman reported per the amended budget total revenue is \$8.9 million; increase of 7.5% over amended budget driven by sales and interest rates. Total expenditures equaling approximately \$9.2 million, 2.5 % above amended budget driven by purchase power cost.

Manager’s reports:

Matt Buck, Distribution superintendent, reported winding down on construction/maintenance season with tree trimming; Wards 1, 2 and 5, to commence in a couple weeks. Krogman stated notice to customers will be in the January bill.

Leesa Budde, accounting, nothing to report.

A.J. Bowman, power plant superintendent, reported he's been spending time on the design of the tank approved by board earlier in meeting, crew has been doing electrical work- overhauled the bell train on biggest air compressor and have been helping out Buck at distribution.

Chris Krogman, utility manager, reported he reached out to BRL Consulting, HR consulting company from North Liberty. Normally a premium is charged for a union contract and a handbook, yet due to our size and MMEU being a municipality quoted us standard \$3000 for a handbook and could begin working on in the new year; received contact information from HR department at WPPI. IAMU may also have a contact who may do a handbook yet not for small scale like we need. The office will be open Friday, December 23rd, normal business hours; City is not.

Board Member reports:

Herring questioned if the office was open Monday, December 26th. Krogman replied no that day is the observance of Christmas.

Gehl questioned how the applications are coming. Not as well as we'd like per Krogman. It seems like every time we post we get fewer and fewer. The advertisement states looking for experience which could be a deterrent. We did receive an application today and will begin reviewing them on January 9th.

Motion by Eltrich; all ayes to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

Megan Andresen, Secretary

Jan Kahler, Chairperson