

**UTILITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
February 12, 2020**

Present: Jan Kahler, Megan Andresen, and Andrea Jones
Absent: Aaron Eltrich and Abby Gehl

Chairperson Kahler called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Motion by Andresen and seconded by Jones to approve the agenda. All Ayes

Motion by Jones and seconded by Andresen to approve the minutes. All Ayes

An update on the Platt Street project was given. Manager Krogman has been looking into easements that may be need from certain businesses. Also, on the West end of the project, there is a possibility that the electrical line could stay overhead, if 6 poles can be moved closer to the edge of the right of way. The movement of the 6 poles would require aggressive tree trimming of about 4 trees. Manager Krogman is working with the property owners to trim or remove the trees. If all property owners and the City agree, the line could stay overhead.

Discussion on the future of MMEU's current AMI system was held. The current Mueller AMI system is not working the best for the electrical meters reporting their information. This has been an ongoing issue, and with recent meetings with Mueller to help resolve some of their issues, they stated that they understand their electrical AMI system doesn't function as well as their water AMI systems. Mueller's plan going forward is to partner with Landis+Gyr for electrical AMI systems. Manager Krogman has been looking at the different options for MMEU. One option is to stay with the current Mueller system, and replace the failing electrical meters with Mueller meters until they are no longer available. Another option is to move to a new Landis+Gyr AMI system being promoted by Mueller. This would require MMEU to purchase new electric meters and infrastructure from Landis+Gyr. Another option is to go with the Elster System that WPPI supports. This system would make it easier to get support and provide usage data and reports tailored to MMEU's needs. Changing to this system would also require MMEU to purchase all new meters and infrastructure, and the billing software and forms would also need to be changed. Initial quote numbers are showing that moving to Elster would be less expensive compared to Landis+Gyr; Manager Krogman has another meeting with Landis+Gyr later this month to discuss quote numbers further.

Manager Krogman mentioned another thought on changing AMI systems. MMEU currently shares the cost of the maintenance/annual fees with the City of Maquoketa for the Mueller System as their water meters are on the Mueller system. Currently, the City's water meters need MMEU's electric meters to commutate and relay their data. If MMEU does leave the Mueller system, the City would have to decide if they want to change also, or install more repeaters to keep their Mueller meters functioning.

Manager Krogman stated for now MMEU is not going to replace any failing electric meters, but have the linemen do manual reads until MMEU decides what option to choose going forward. He noted the meters are reading accurately. It is the radio communication part of the meter that is failing.

Motion by Andresen and seconded by Jones to approve the claims as presented
All Ayes by Roll Call

Manager's Reports – Manager Krogman stated the application for an electric vehicle charger grant was submitted to the State. He also stated that computer maintenance will be taking place on the MMEU server equipment on March 6th. MMEU offices will not have computer access for most of the day, but will remain open.

Board Member's Reports – Chairperson Kahler asked if MMEU had a lot of customers signing up for email bills. Manager Krogman said the number is going up, but MMEU has not promoted the option that much due to the capacity of the current internet connection and having to send out email bills in batches. MMEU is looking to improve the internet connect soon, and hopefully this will solve the issue.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Andresen to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

Chairperson, Jan Kahler

ATTEST:

Megan Andresen, Secretary