

**UTILITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS and via ZOOM
May 12, 2021**

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

Vice Chairperson Eltrich called the meeting to order at 4:32 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

Manager Krogman gave an updated on the new Apprentice Lineman position. 6 people were interviewed, and all were excellent candidates; the decision was to hire Ethan McCaulley from DeWitt, with family ties to Maquoketa. He is set to graduate linemen school on Friday May 14th and will start working at MMEU on Monday, May 17th. Manager Krogman did mention there was talk of hiring 2 apprentices during this hiring progress, but concerns about training with multiple apprentices currently, and also the priority of a meter tech/mapping person needed put that idea on hold. MMEU currently has a part time meter tech, but it is foreseen this will be only short term, and MMEU would like to look into creating a new job description where a meter tech and a mapping position is combined into one position.

Discussion was held to hire DGR Engineering to do a study on options for Plant 2. The MMEU Power Plant 2 was originally established as part of a contract with the Family Dollar Distribution Center to provide immediate back up power, and that agreement expired at the end of 2020. The engines at Plant 2, from the start, had trouble running at the original designed capacity, and due to these issues, were actually degraded in capacity by the manufacturer. There are some components at the Plant 2 that are no longer working, and getting expensive to replace, and also have general maintenance expenses that are getting more costly. As the engines could be useful in outage to customers to the south, MMEU actually has enough capacity with Plant 1 and design of the substations to provide power to the entire town in an outage. There have been talks with WPPI about extending the capacity payment contract in place at Plant 1, and they have agreed to extend to additional 10 years, until 2036. It was also discussed if WPPI would be willing add capacity payments if the Plant 2 engines were updated, and it is an option. Manager Krogman would like use DGR Engineering to do study on different options for Plant 2, whether updating to new engines, replacing engines with used units, leave as is, or scape Plant 2 entirely. Motion by Andresen and second by Jones to approve the hiring of DGR Engineering to do a study on options for Plant 2. All Ayes by Roll Call.

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

Budget discussions were held.

Manager's Reports - Danny Clark, Distribution Superintendent attended his last MMEU board as his retirement is happening at the end of May. He introduced Matt Buck as the new distribution superintendent. Mr. Clark as state the Platt St. Project has been moving right along. Manager Krogman stated that representatives from WPPI will be attending next month's MMEU board meeting (June). He also stated the Power Plant did complete their Stack Testing recently and it went well.

Motion by Jones and Andresen seconded by to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Vice Chairperson, Aaron Eltrich

ATTEST:

Megan Andresen, Secretary