

UTILITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Digital Meeting via ZOOM
June 10, 2020

Present: Jan Kahler, Megan Andresen, Andrea Jones, and Abby Gehl
Aaron Eltrich (joined mid-meeting)

Chairperson Kahler called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

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

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

Aaron Eltrich Joined the Meeting

Manager Chris Krogman gave an update on the replacement AMI system. Mr. Krogman stated that Landis + Gyr could not give a better rate from their initial quote a few months ago, which was higher and did not include additional features compared to the Elster/North Star system. So that leaves MMEU with two options: moving forward with switching to the Elster/North Star system that is partnered with WPPI, or stay with Mueller System.

The estimated cost to change to the Elster/North Star system is around \$450,000. The start of the process in changing would be first converting the billing system to the North Star software, which also comes with a customer portal option, and having the physical bill printing and mailing out sourced. Changing meters to Elster then would take place. Chairperson Kahler stated that while the current Mueller system is not beneficial to MMEU as it needs to be, and something needs to change with the AMI system, it is frustrating that MMEU has to pay for another system and go through this process again. He wondered if there is any recourse of going back on Mueller for the failures in their system. Manager Krogman stated this option has been looked at, and has been discussed with a couple different general counsels at IAMU and WPPI. Unfortunately since our contract with Mueller doesn't specifically state any factors that are not being done or Mueller isn't attempting to address, any legal recourse would be hard to move forward.

MMEU is moving forward with the plan to change to Elster/North Star. Since Elster/North Star have a partnership with WPPI, no contract commitment is required at this time. The first steps of changing to the North Star billing software could happen as soon this fall/winter 2020.

Manager Krogman gave an update on the mapping process for MMEU's new mapping system. A representative from the company, MPower, has been in town the past week and started gathering initial data. This data will be worked on off-site to set up MMEU's system, and in a few weeks, the representative will be back in Maquoketa to finish. MMEU linemen have also been gathering location information for the system.

Discussion on the "Community Recharge Funds" was held. WPPI gave each member a set amount of funds to put back in the community due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, calling the program "Community Recharge Funds". MMEU received a little over \$8,000. MMEU

decided to sponsor ½ price gift cards at local area restaurants most impacted since the pandemic (ones having to change the main way they do business). The program went over really well, with most restaurants selling out in a matter of days. MMEU also sponsored lunch service one day for city essential workers that have been working throughout the pandemic. There is still about \$1,700 left to use.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Eltrich to approve the claims as presented.

Megan Andresen sustained from voting due to conflict of interest on a claim - All
Ayes by Roll Call

Manger Krogman discussed current budget numbers. Revenue is down from budgeted amounts, mostly due to the COVID-19 impact on usage and mild weather thus far this year.

Manager Reports – Boyd Schoenthaler stated he was glad to be back to work and they are working on getting estimates for the Plant roof replacement. Chris Krogman discussed the plans to reopen city hall to the public. With discussions with the city, there is no rush to reopen with the uncertainty of the pandemic, and the fact that all customers’ needs are being handled very well currently, and the City Hall is without a cleaning person. Mr. Krogman also stated that easements for the Platt Street Project are being worked on.

Board Member Reports – Megan thanked the lineman for their fast response at a fire that happened at her business location recently.

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

Chairperson, Jan Kahler

ATTEST:

Megan Andresen, Secretary