

UTILITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Digital Meeting via ZOOM
September 9, 2020

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

Chairperson Kahler called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

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

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

Manager Krogman gave an update on the 2020 Goals. For Administration, some goals have been completed, such as some computer improvements, with others being planned for next year. Other administration goals that were completed are the service application forms were updated, and the electric vehicle charging station grant application completed and approved. Some on going and continuing goals for administration are the financial planning worksheet, determine the best AMI option for the future. Manager Krogman also went over the Administration Long Term goals, with one moving up to next year – look into extending the current Capacity Agreement with WPPI past 2025.

For the Power Plant, Mr. Krogman went over the short-term goals and stated have some are still ongoing or moving to next year. The plan to have tuck pointing done at the Power Plant this year has been pushed back as after consulting with architect, and it was determined the roof is higher priority. For long term goals, most are carrying over to next year, with the expectation of the roof replacement, which is being completed this year.

For Distribution, short term goals that have been completed, or are have work in progress, and will be carried over to next year include: replacing old underground cable not in conduit that crosses streets, replacing remaining 1000 watt & 400-watt flood lights with LED, new GIS mapping system in place, replace the 2003 bucket truck and replace worn out floor at distribution building. A long-term goal for Distribution that was completed on a short-term basis was the hiring of a part time meter tech.

Manager Krogman went into the new goals, both short term and long term for 2021. For Administration, a new major goal is the conversion of billing & customer information software to Northstar.

For the Power Plant, many of the goals are being carried over from 2020.

For Distribution, new goals include the Platt Street Reconstruction Project that is taking place between 2020 to 2022, replace the 2007 Skidloader, and create a succession plan for Electric Distribution Superintendent retiring in 2021. Chairperson Kahler asked some questions about the succession plan for the electric distribution superintendent, about if hiring would be internal with moving other linemen up. Initial thinking is looking at hiring internally.

Discussion was held to approve purchase of new AMI Meters and Infrastructure. Manger Krogman stated as the current Mueller meters continued to fail, a good plan for MMEU is purchase new meters from Elster to start installing. Estimated cost for the AMI project is \$350,000 for meters, and another \$100,000 for set up and installation, for a total of \$450,000.

Manager Krogman discussed a loan program from WPPI, where MMEU can apply up to \$385,000 for a 10 year, 0% interest loan; there a 1% origination fee for the amount of the loan. While MMEU has cash reserves for this project, with the Platt Street project also happening in the next few years, the loan would help by not tying up all cash reserves. Manager Krogman can apply to WPPI for the loan, and if approved, MMEU board would have to take action to approve entering into the loan later. Motion by Eltrich and seconded by Gehl to start the application process with WPPI, and to start purchasing new AMI Meters. All Ayes by Roll Call.

Discussion was held on MMEU becoming a member of the Safety Group East Iowa and IAMU Agreement. MMEU is currently part of a safety group through IAMU that does monthly safety meetings with other area members. IAMU is offering a new type of safety group, where a new group is formed, and IAMU will hire a centralized safety person to conduct individualized safety meetings, specific to each member, instead of group, shared training as it is done down. The cost to belong to the new group is \$9,728 compared to the \$5,200 current cost, but the training will be more beneficial to MMEU. Belonging to the new group is a 28E agreement, so the MMEU board needs to pass a resolution to join, and MMEU would be allow to join next quarter, in January 2021. Motion by Andresen and second by Jones to approve Resolution 2020-2 – A Resolution Agreeing to Become A Member of the Safety Group East Iowa and IAMU Agreement. All Ayes by Roll Call.

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

Manager Reports – Boyd Schoenthaler – Plant Supervisor stated the URGE test for WPPI capacity payments was done the last week of August, and went pretty well. Total kilowatts were down by one thousand compared to last year. Also stated the contractor has started the roof replacement at the Power Plant.

Manager Chris Krogman stated that is looks like Jackson County will qualify for FEMA reimbursement related to the 8/10/20 Derecho storm expenses. He also informed the board WPPI is offering virtual orientation this year on October 15th for any employee or board member that is interested.

Motion by Andresen and seconded by Eltrich to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Chairperson, Jan Kahler

ATTEST:

Megan Andresen, Secretary