

The Owatonna Public Utilities Commission met in regular session in the Commission Room. Present were Commissioners Schreiner, Emanuelson, Truelson and Mayhew. Absent was Commissioner Noyce. Also present were General Manager Shurts; City Administrator Sparks; Director, Finance & Administration Bruno; Director, Fielding Services Morgan; Director, Marketing & Energy Management Green; and Executive/HR Assistant Schmoll.

Mr. Green led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

The Minutes from the regular meeting of January 22, 2007 were presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Truelson moved to accept the Minutes as presented. Commissioner Mayhew seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

### **Committee Reports**

Personnel Committee – Commissioner Truelson reminded the Commissioners to check their calendars for available dates for a follow-up meeting to the General Manager’s review.

Finance Committee – Commissioner Emanuelson reported the Finance Committee met, reviewed and approved vouchers, financial statements, and several work order additions. He reported the additions were due to more work being done in each utility than what was anticipated. He further reported Supervisor, Engineering Johnson gave a detailed presentation to the Committee discussing these work order additions.

### **City Administrator’s Report**

City Administrator Sparks reported the joint OPU/City Council session has been scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. General Manager Shurts requested agenda items for that meeting from the City Council. Mr. Sparks suggested one item should be a service territory update including philosophies and expectations. Mr. Sparks continued with his report by discussion other meetings the council has in the near future. Mr. Sparks also briefly touched on the status of the DM&E railroad contracts.

### **Contributed Services**

The Contributed Services report as of January 31, 2007 was presented to the Commission. The Commission signed the report.

### **General Manager/Staff Report**

General Manager Shurts thanked employees who helped surrounding utilities restore power to their customers after the recent snow storms. Mr. Shurts continued by giving an update on the Faribault transmission line, stating staff and consultants worked very hard to get that line back up and running after a breaker failed. Mr. Shurts reported an announcement had been made at Rotary for anyone in the third ward interested in the Commission seat when Trish Noyce leaves to contact Steve Shurts or Tom Kuntz. While on the topic, Mr. Shurts directed the Commission’s attention to a draft position description for the Commissioners. Mr. Shurts asked the Commission to review the document and get back to him with any comments.

Director, Marketing & Energy Management Green reported OPU has been involved in discussions with MMUA and several other utilities on the development of a MN Gas Agency. Mr. Green, Mr. Shurts and Mr. Bruno discussed the reasons OPU would want to be involved in this association. They noted it would result in savings to OPU in the gas utility and would not involve any risk.

Mr. Green further reported to the Commission on the status of discussions with Northern Border and Northern Natural Gas regarding long term gas transmission options. Discussion ensued.

### **Commission Roundtable**

Commissioner Mayhew – Nothing.

Commissioner Emanuelson – How will the new energy bill affect the Big Stone II project? General Manager Shurts explained it won't affect that project at all. Commissioner Schreiner inquired if it will make it harder to meet our 25% goal of renewable energy if we continue with the Big Stone II project. General Manager Shurts replied the Big Stone II project is taking care of SMMPA's extra growth and we will need both Big Stone II and renewable energies.

Commissioner Truelson – Attended a meeting discussion natural gas and pipelines. Also, Wenger is offering ergonomics classes for two days and if anyone is interested in attending please contact Raymond.

Commissioner Schreiner – Nothing.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Mayhew moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Emanuelson seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Schmoll  
Executive/HR Assistant