

The Owatonna Public Utilities Commission met in regular session in the Commission Room. Present were Commissioners Stansberry, Schreiner, and Cosens. Absent were Commissioners Emanuelson and Ihrke. Also present were General Manager Shurts; City Administrator Busse; Director, Financial & Administrative Services Bruno; Director, Engineering, Electric & Meter Services Johnson; Manager, HR, Safety, Risk & Loss Control Madson; and Executive/HR Assistant Schmoll.

City Administrator Busse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The Minutes from the rescheduled meeting of February 26, 2010 were presented to the Commission. Commissioner Schreiner moved to accept the Minutes as presented. Commissioner Cosens seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee: Commissioner Schreiner reported the Personnel Committee did not meet. However, dates have been set for the General Manager's review. Packets are being prepared and will be distributed to the other Commissioners for their review.

Finance Committee: Commissioner Cosens reported the Finance Committee met, reviewed and approved Vouchers in the amount of \$6,324,323.43, one work order and two work order addendums. He noted the overall revenue of the Utility is in a positive position and there are not any concerns.

City Administrator's Report

City Administrator Busse reported the legislature continues to deal with budget deficit issues, but the Senate has proposed less of a cut for cities, which is more in line with what the City of Owatonna was hoping for.

The City Council voted to approve the pursuing of an extension of the City sales tax to extend it past 2011 for four projects. The projects include the FCC mandated upgrade of police and fire radios and the outside sirens to the 800 megahertz frequency; Maple Creek watershed study (including issues outside of the city) and flood mitigation to assess, and try to deal with, water issues outside the city before they get into the city; new roofs on the Administration Building and the Library; and, the completion of the north straight river trail including some amenities within that park. If approved by the legislature, each item will be presented separately for a public vote. Director, Engineering, Electric & Meter Services Johnson added, OPU's FCC license expires in February 2011 but we will stay with our VHF radio system and will later purchase a few 800 megahertz frequency radios to interface with police and fire.

City Administrator Busse concluded by stating the City Council has requested a joint meeting with the OPU Commission. After discussion, the Commission agreed to host a joint lunch meeting. The date will be set at a later time.

Contributed Services

The Contributed Services report as of February 28, 2010 was presented to the Commission. The Commission signed the report.

General Manager/Staff Report

General Manager Shurts discussed with the Commission the article he was putting in the next newsletter regarding climate change. The Commission expressed their opinions regarding the article.

General Manager Shurts reported there are some issues with the new Customer Management System, but staff is working through them.

Manager, HR, Safety, Risk & Loss Control Madson reported Mike Vick, Utility Technician, will be retiring as of March 31, 2010 after 12 years of service with OPU. A search has been conducted for his replacement. 49 applications were received and six applicants will be interviewed.

Commission Roundtable

Commissioner Cosens – Nothing.

Commissioner Schreiner – Complimented OPU on the simplicity of the newsletter and how easy it is to understand.

Commissioner Stansberry – Is impressed with the new look of the billing statement and complimented staff on all their hard work.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Cosens moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Schreiner seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive/HR Assistant
Tammy Schmoll.