

The Owatonna Public Utilities Commission met in regular session in the Morehouse Room at the Owatonna Public Utilities. Present were Commissioners Schreiner, Kottke, Stansberry, Cosens and Simon. Also present were General Manager Fritsch; City Administrator Busse; Director, Financial & Administrative Services Fondell; Director, Engineering Johnson; Director, Field Operations & External Relations Warehime; Executive/HR Assistant Schmoll; and Marketing/Energy Conservation Manager Jared Hendricks. Also present were Kim Hillberg of CliftonLarsonAllen and customer, Roger Wacek.

Director, Engineer Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The Minutes from the regular meeting of March 24, 2015 were presented to the Commission. Commissioner Simon moved to approve the Minutes, as presented. Commissioner Kottke seconded the motion. All Commissioners, except Commissioner Stansberry who abstained, voting Aye, the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Commissioner Simon reported the Finance Committee met, reviewed and approved Vouchers in the amount of \$6,014,959.52. He further reported the Committee approved two work orders and one work order addition. One work order was unbudgeted in the amount of \$9,750 to purchase a new Trimble. The Trimble will be helpful in tracking underground facilities and its location accuracy is within 4". It will be used primarily in conjunction with the Jaguar project. The budgeted work order, in the amount of \$21,000, was for work to be completed at Well House #8 including the roof and driveway.

Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stansberry reported the Personnel Committee met, and received updates regarding staffing, union negotiations, and other personnel related issues. Tammy's Tidbit regarded safety and when OSHA was formed.

City Administrator's Report

City Administrator Busse reported on various street projects the City is working on. She further reported the City hired a third person in the IT department as well as a GIS Specialist.

Auditor's Report

Kim Hillberg from CliftonLarsonAllen presented OPU's 2014 Audit Report to the Commission. She highlighted a few key sections of the report and noted OPU has been issued a clean or unmodified opinion audit. One specific area reviewed was the area dealing with FEMA reimbursement due to the 2010 flood. The only suggestion in this area was to have a second set of eyes look over the documents before submitting to FEMA. Overall, she reported things look good financially and control wise. She complimented Director, Financial & Administrative Services Fondell and her staff on the great job they do. The Commission thanked Mrs. Hillberg for her report. She left the meeting.

Contributed Services

The Contributed Services report as of March 31, 2015 was presented to the Commission. The Commission signed the report.

Operations/Scorecard

Staff updated the Commission on changes to the March 2015 scorecard.

General Manager/Staff Report

General Manager Fritsch reported OPU will be receiving the Preservation Award from the Steele County Historical Society on Friday, May 1, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. for the repurposing of the power plant. Staff and Commission were invited to attend.

General Manager Fritsch gave a brief staffing update, an update on the repurposing project, and union negotiations. Mr. Fritsch reminded the Commission Election of Officers will be on the agenda for the May meeting.

Commission Roundtable

Commissioner Simon – Complimented staff on the tree trimming program, including reduced costs and the reduced number of outages.

Commissioner Stansberry – Congratulated Director, Financial & Administrative Services Fondell and her staff on the clean audit.

The rest of the Commissioners echoed Commissioner Stansberry's comments regarding the audit.

Audience Comments

Customer Roger Wacek, 646 E. Vine St., complimented OPU on their energy efficiency rebates and their communication to the public regarding energy conservation. Mr. Wacek inquired as to why OPU does not offer rebates for blower door tests on new construction as they do with the energy audits. It was reported to Mr. Wacek that blower door tests are required on new homes by code and therefore do not offer any incentive for people to become more energy efficient, they are already being required to be right from the beginning with a new home. After discussion, the Commission directed staff to draft a written response to Mr. Wacek regarding OPU's position regarding this issue.

Mr. Wacek also recommended the Commission read a book called "*Unprecedented – Can Civilization Survive CO2 Crisis*" by David Ray Griffin.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Stansberry moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cosens seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Schmoll,
Executive/HR Assistant