

The Owatonna Public Utilities Commission met in regular session in the Morehouse Conference Room at the Owatonna Public Utilities. Present were Commissioners Doyal, Kottke, Rossi and Zirngible. Absent was Commissioner Johnson. Also present were General Manager Warehime; Community Development Director Klecker; Director, Finance & Administration Olson; Director, Engineering & Field Operations Fenstermacher; Director, Information Technology & Metering Baum; Manager, Human Resources Madson; Manager, Facilities, Gas/Water Engineering & Operations Prokopec; Supervisor, Accounting Linders; Executive, Communications & Administration Coordinator Schmoll; Energy Conservation/Key Accounts Officers Hendricks; Accountant Lori Jerpak and Accounting Specialist Shanda Meier.

President Doyal called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Commissioner Rossi moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Zirngible seconded the motion. All members voting Aye, the motion passed. President Doyal then asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. The consent agenda items included the Minutes from the April 25, 2022 meeting, as well as the Contributed Services report as of April 30, 2022. Commissioner Rossi moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Commissioner Zirngible seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

Election of Officers

A slate of officers with Commissioner Johnson as President and Commissioner Zirngible as Vice President was presented to the Commission. Commissioner Kottke moved to approve the slate as presented. Commissioner Rossi seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

Commissioners Rossi and Zirngible will serve on the Personnel Committee with President Johnson as an ex-officio member. Commissioners Kottke and Doyal will serve on the Finance Committee with President Johnson as an ex-officio member.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Commissioner Kottke reported the Finance Committee met, reviewed and approved vouchers totaling \$7,022,589.07. The electric AMI work is closing. Accounts Receivable balances are a bit higher than normal but expect to be back in line in May. Overall, all three utilities are in good shape.

Personnel Committee – Commissioner Zirngible reported the Personnel Committee met and received a staffing update along with an update on safety. He noted, OSHA recordable days without an incident are at 763. Commissioner Kottke inquired about the job shadowing program at OHS, Career Pathways. Mr. Fenstermacher, Mr. Linders and Mrs. Madson all discussed pieces of the program and OPU's involvement.

City Administrator's Report

City Administrator Busse was not present. However, Community Development Director Klecker was present and updated the Commission on OPED (Owatonna Partners for Economic Development). He discussed the members of the group, the group's strategic plan and focus, and the 2021 Annual Report. He noted workforce development and housing are two of the main focus areas.

Renewable Energy Credit Purchase Program – Residential

Energy Conservation and Key Accounts Officer Hendricks presented the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Purchase Program for residential customers to the Commission. He discussed what renewable energy credits are and where they come from. He gave an overview of how the program will work, gave an example of a typical residential customer and discussed the OPU/SMMPA contract for RECs. After discussion,

Commissioner Rossi moved to approve the Renewable Energy Credit Purchase Program for residential customers as presented. Commissioner Zirngible seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

General Manager/Staff Report

Director, Finance & Administration Olson and Director, Engineering & Field Operations Fenstermacher updated the Commission on the feasibility study. They discussed OPU's current facilities and explained items the feasibility study will address including projections for what the project could cost in the future. Mr. Klecker also discussed how the City would utilize the property where the North Storage Facility is located if OPU were to vacate the property.

General Manager Warehime asked for Commissioners to participate in the joint task force meeting on July 25th. Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Rossi will participate in the meeting. If Commissioner Johnson is unable to, Commissioner Kottke will participate.

Mr. Warehime updated the Commission on transmission risks OPU is currently facing, natural gas pricing, the potential for load shedding this summer, and supply chain issues. Mr. Fenstermacher added a bit more on the supply chain issues noting transformers are the worst issue currently.

The last item Mr. Warehime updated the Commission is our 5 to 50lb. conversation contractor, NPL, is in town.

Commission Roundtable

Commissioner Doyal encouraged General Manager Warehime and now President, Commissioner Johnson to continue monthly meetings. He found it very beneficial.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Schmoll,
Executive, Communications & Administration Coordinator