

The Owatonna Public Utilities Commission met in special session in the Main Building Break Room. Present were Commissioners Truelson, Mayhew, Schreiner, Noyce and Emanuelson. Also present were OPU General Manager Steve Shurts, City of Owatonna City Administrator Greg Sparks, City of Owatonna City Attorney Mark Walbran, Steele County Commission Board Chair Tom Shea, City of Owatonna Director of Parks and Recreation Jeff McKay, OPU Finance Manager Mike Bruno, OPU Gas Marketing Manager Joe Green and OPU HR/Executive Assistant Tammy Schmoll.

Jeff McKay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPU General Manager Shurts recapped the reason for the meeting stating the City Council presented a recommendation to the Commission requesting 100% contributed services for the Four Season's building. Mr. Shurts recapped the current agreement between City and the County for the Four Season's building. Mr. Shurts reported the impact on our rates will be minimal. Currently the impact is 2.34% of our rates. If we paid for 100% of the utilities for the facility the impact would be 2.48%. OPU Finance Manager Bruno distributed and explained a table showing the Four Seasons building's utility services for the past 12 months.

City of Owatonna Director of Parks and Recreation Jeff McKay distributed a handout discussing different groups using the Four Seasons and explained each group. He noted the potential new functions would be held during the "black" hours to generate revenue for the City. Mr. McKay further noted the new Southern Minnesota Express Hockey Team would be paying to use the facility. Not only will this generate revenue for the Four Seasons, it will also generate revenue for the rest of Owatonna as far as hotels, restaurants, etc. The Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce estimates the impact would be \$750,000. Mr. McKay also discussed a time line stating the agreement would begin when both parties sign the agreement and end in the year 2012 to coincide with the final bond payment on the second sheet of ice at the Four Seasons. Also, in the year 2012 an examination of the agreement would be conducted with recommendations for the future to follow.

After discussion, Commissioner Mayhew moved to accept the request of the City of Owatonna to contribute up to 100% of the utility services for the Four Seasons building up to the year 2012 subject to the Charter and a legal opinion giving authority to do so. Commissioner Noyce seconded the motion. Four Commissioners voted Aye, one Commissioner abstained from the vote due to being a County employee. The motion passed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Schreiner moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Emanuelson seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Schmoll
HR/Executive Assistant