

The Owatonna Public Utilities Commission met in regular session in the Morehouse Conference Room at the Owatonna Public Utilities. Present were Commissioners Simon, Rossi, and Kottke. Absent were Commissioners Cosens and Doyal. Also present were General Manager Fritsch; City Administrator Busse; Chief Financial Officer Fondell; Director, Engineering Johnson; Director, Field Operations Warehime; Manager, Human Resources Madson; Manager, Information Technology Keltgen; Supervisor, Accounting Sedivy; Supervisor, Meter Services Pelot; and Executive, HR & Administration Coordinator Schmoll. Other guests included customer Roger Wacek.

Commissioner Simon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The Minutes from the regular meeting of June 27, 2017 were presented to the Commission. Commissioner Kottke moved to approve the Minutes as presented. Commissioner Rossi seconded the motion. All Commissioners Voting Aye, the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Commissioner Kottke reported the Finance Committee met, reviewed and approved Vouchers totaling \$5,494,679.50. He further reported all the financial reports continue to look good.

Personnel Committee – Commissioner Rossi reported two of the three open positions have been filled. Joe Cadorette started as the gas/water serviceworker with journeyman lineman starting soon. The only open position is the Electric Engineering Technician. He further reported on an effort Roger Warehime and Jenny Heimerman are working on for writing procedures. The classes that were held would help employees better write, read and follow procedures.

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Busse reported a new Library Director has been hired and will start on August 21st. She further reported they are working with a company to rework the City's website.

CIS Change Approval

Manager, Information Technology Keltgen presented to the Commission a proposal and recommendation to change the current Customer Information System from Cogsdale to NISC. Mr. Keltgen reported the current system has limitations which prohibit us from moving forward into the future with such programs as community solar, AMI, Outage Management, and diverse customer options regarding payments and other services. Mr. Keltgen discussed the benefits of switching to NISC and costs associated with it. After discussion, Commissioner Rossi moved approval of switching the Customer Information System to NISC. Commissioner Kottke seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

Contributed Services

The Contributed Services report as of June 30, 2017 was presented to the Commission. The Commission signed the report.

Operations/Scorecard

Staff updated the Commission on changes to the June scorecard.

General Manager/Staff Report

General Manager Fritsch updated the Commission on the contract worker at the Owatonna Energy Station who was injured. He noted the worker is still recovering and is back in his hometown. He further reported the extent of the damage is still not known and the investigation is ongoing.

General Manager Fritsch reported on the progress of the electric vehicle charging station near the old Arnold House. He further reported that SMMPA is anticipating a 4% rate increase in 2018 due to being behind on the load forecast. The 2018 Succession Planning process has been launched and service territory negotiations are ongoing.

Director, Field Operations Warehime updated the Commission on some issues with the gas turbine. He noted it has been taken off of MISO on a forced outage.

Chief Financial Officer Fondell reported OPU is working with a consultant on an electric cost of service study. She noted it is felt a separate workshop for presentation of the information would be ideal. The dates that work the best seems to be October 9th. Commissioner Rossi will not be able to attend, however he was ok with proceeding with the meeting on the 9th. The last cost of service study was conducted about 10 years ago. It is time for another study to ensure the customers are not subsidizing those who have net metering or renewable energy.

Executive, HR & Administration Coordinator Schmoll reminded the Commissioners of the date change for the August meeting.

Manager, Human Resources Madson updated the Commission on the succession planning process.

Commission Roundtable

Commissioner Rossi requested a monthly report on the electric production of the Lemond Solar project. Mr. Fritsch will look into getting that report.

Commissioner Simon inquired if we could get more wires on our poles and then showed a picture of a pole from the overseas with several wires on them. Everyone laughed.

Audience Comments

Roger Wacek noted he attended the Lemond Solar Open House and complimented OPU on the service they provided when moving an electric line and trimming a tree.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Rossi moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kottke seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Schmoll
Executive, HR & Administration Coordinator