

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

Commissioner Schreiner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The Minutes from the rescheduled meeting of July 30, 2015 were presented to the Commission. Commissioner Schreiner moved to approve the Minutes as submitted. Commissioner Simon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Commissioner Simon reported the Finance Committee met, reviewed and approved Vouchers in the amount of \$4,746,023.87. They also approved two work orders. One was for OPU's portion to pave the parking lot across from OPU. The lot will serve as additional parking for guests, customers and OPU employees. The second work order was the purchase of a software upgrade. Reserve levels are looking healthy.

Personnel Committee – Commissioner Stansberry reported the Personnel Committee met and received an update on union negotiations and had a discussion on non-union salaries. He reported they will meet again before making a recommendation.

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Busse updated the Commission on various street projects around the city, discussed the compensation study the City is having conducted and reported the budget process is moving forward.

Fluoride Level Discussion

Director, Field Operations & External Relations Warehime discussed with the Commission the Federal Department of Health and Human Services' requirements to drop the recommended fluoride level in drinking water from 1.2 ppm to .7 ppm. Minnesota has not yet adopted the recommended drop but has offered municipalities an opportunity to file for a variance allowing them to operate with the concentration levels between .7 ppm. OPU applied for and received the variance and has been testing equipment to ensure it will run properly at the lesser level. Staff is seeking Commission's approval to drop the fluoride levels in Owatonna's drinking water to .7ppm. Commissioner Simon moved to approve the policy change as long as there is approval from the State. Commissioner Cosens seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

Customer Deposit Policy

General Manager Fritsch presented the Customer Deposit Policy, Policy #601.307, to the Commission. Commissioner Simon recommended tabling the policy until the next meeting.

Contributed Services

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

Operations/Scorecard

Staff updated the Commission on changes to the Scorecard for the month of July.

General Manager/Staff Report

General Manager Fritsch announced OPU received the MMUA Award for System Innovation. He reported the award is given to utilities whose innovation supports and highlights the benefits of public power in the community and does something that is exceptional.

General Manager Fritsch updated the issues discussed at the MMUA Summer Conference. A major topic was cyber security. He further reported he will be leading the effort for MMUA to develop a leadership program. Currently they have a supervisor one, but want something on a higher level.

General Manager Fritsch reported through mediation staff came to an agreement with the Outside Crew Union. A vote was scheduled for later in the week and it is anticipated to pass.

Mr. Fritsch further noted notification had been received for SMMPA's Annual Meeting October 15-16th and encouraged Commissioners to attend if they could.

Marketing/Energy Conservation Manager Jared Hendricks recapped OPU's booth at the Steele County Free Fair. He noted the theme was electrical safety.

Commission Roundtable

No Commissioners had anything additional to add.

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 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Schmoll
Executive/HR Assistant