

The Owatonna Public Utilities Commission met in regular session in the Commission room. Present were Commissioners Schreiner, Truelson, and Stansberry. Absent were Commissioners Mayhew and Emanuelson. Also present were General Manager Shurts; Interim City Administrator Benoit; Director, Finance & Administration Bruno; Director, Marketing & Energy Management Green; Supervisor, Energy Management & SCADA Warehime; and Executive/HR Assistant Schmoll.

Director, Finance & Administration Bruno led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The Minutes from the regular meeting of July 24, 2007 were presented to the Commission. Commissioner Truelson moved to approve the Minutes as submitted. Commissioner Stansberry seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Commissioner Truelson reported the Finance Committee met. The new financial system is still being worked on and therefore, financial statements were not available for review. However the Committee approved Vouchers and one non-budgeted Work Order for the replacement of the roof on Well House #8.

Personnel Committee – Commissioner Schreiner reported the Personnel Committee did not meet.

City Administrators Report

Interim City Administrator Benoit thanked the OPU employees for their work with the City employees during the flood over the weekend of August 18th & 19th, as well as in the days that followed. Mr. Benoit further reported we will be using the City Spot article in the OPU newsletter for better communication to residents regarding storm water management.

Contributed Services

The Contributed Services report as of July 31, 2007 were presented to the Commission. The Commission signed the report. Commissioner Truelson inquired about the slight increase in Fire Department's bill. Interim City Administrator Benoit replied, there has been some construction at the Fire Hall that may be causing the increase.

General Manager/Staff Report

General Manager Shurts gave a recap of OPU's damage due to a flash flood occurring over the weekend of August 18th & 19th. Mr. Shurts noted, garage #1 flooded again, but we did not lose any vehicles or equipment. The Commission Room received minor water damage, however, it has been cleaned and dried. Mr. Shurts reported on two outages that occurred due to lightning and resulted in loss of power for less than 2 hours. Mr. Shurts further discussed OPU's involvement with customers in the southeast area of town who were flooded the worst, namely shutting off electric and natural gas meters. Discussion ensued.

Director, Marketing & Energy Management Green reported to the Commission, OPU is working with a natural gas customer outside of town to supply natural gas to their facility, as well as their proposed expansion. The Commission was reminded there are no service territory limitations for natural gas. We can offer them the pre-pay program which they cannot get from their current supplier.

Commissioner Truelson inquired about the natural gas futures. Director, Marketing & Energy Management Green replied, unless we have a major catastrophe, prices look stable.

Supervisor, Energy Management & SCADA Warehime distributed and discussed consumption graphs by units compared to budget. Mr. Warehime also distributed and discussed bi-annual rate studies.

Commission Roundtable

Commissioner Stansberry – Thanks to staff for the visibility at the Steele County Free Fair. Great to see OPU so well represented.

Commissioner Truelson – The fair booth gets better every year, very professional. Thanks to the employees for their hard work. Also, sympathies go out to Marge Madson in the loss of her father.

Commissioner Schreiner – Inquired about the budget billing program offered to customers. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Truelson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stansberry seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Schmoll
Executive/HR Assistant