

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

September 25, 2018, 1:00 P.M.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Regular Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission, City of Princeton, was held in Commission Offices, 907 First Street, on September 25, 2018, at 1:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Mindi Siercks and Commissioners George Freichels and Henry Findell.

Absent: None

Also Present: Manager Connie Wangen, Bookkeeper Kathy Ohman, City Councilor Jack Edmonds, Electric Supervisor Jon Brooks, Water Superintendent Scott Daniels, Lead Lineman Jeremy Linden and Dave Schultz from WSB.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Siercks at 1:00 P.M.

Chairman Siercks called for additions or deletions to the agenda. Additions: FYI: B. Shop Roof.

Mr. Findell moved to approve the Minutes of the August 29, 2018 meeting. Mr. Freichels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Wangen reported the following:

- A. The SMMPA Board Meeting was held September 12th in Grand Marais. Manager Connie Wangen did not attend this meeting as she had a meeting scheduled with Eaton regarding AMI meters. Prior to the SMMPA board meeting, the proposed budgets and rates were sent electronically to all managers. At the SMMPA board meeting there was a preview of the 2019 budget and rates. The proposed 2019 budget and rates will be presented at the SMMPA October board meeting for action by the board. SMMPA owns part of the transmission line in Wisconsin, both on the Wisconsin Badger Coulee line and the CapX La Crosse transmission project. A portion of the Badger Coulee transmission line in Wisconsin will be built parallel to the existing CapX transmission line along an 8 mile section north of La Crosse, WI. To avoid the Badger Coulee line crossing over the CapX line, the two will switch places for about a five-mile section. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin approved the Badger Coulee route with the requirement that the lines in this corridor be switched to avoid having to cross the lines. This will be accomplished by an asset purchase sale agreement. The SMMPA Board approved moving forward with this.
- B. The SMMPA Annual Meeting will be held October 12th and 13th in Bloomington. Paul P. and Tom O. attended the MMUA Overhead Lineman School in Marshall in September. Paul is very active in the apprenticeship training. Jeremy L. has completed his apprenticeship program. Kathy O. and Debbie H. attended the PMUG Conference in Bloomington. Manager Wangen attended a meeting at MMUA with numerous other utilities to discuss service territory issues. It was a very good turnout. Jim B. and Scott S. will be going to Owatonna for a SMMPA generation workshop tomorrow. While there, Jim B. will be testing the generator at the Owatonna Combustion Turbine. Cindy L. and Manager Wangen will be attending a Cold Weather Rule seminar next Tuesday at Connexus. Eaton has a conference in Minneapolis later in October. They have advised Manager Wangen to send a few people to this conference to learn more in-depth on the AMI metering we are looking at purchasing.

- C. The actual Public Power Week is from October 7th through October 13th. Because our bills are due on the 10th, the PPUC will recognize Public Power Week from October 1st through October 10th. On October 4th, we will be serving a Customer Appreciation lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the front yard of the Generation Plant. During the week we will be handing out LED light bulbs along with door prizes and drawings.
- D. In the Generation Plant, they are working on the fuel return meters. The #7 Cat ran Friday, September 14th, Saturday the 15th and Monday the 17th. Engine #6's cylinder #4 was running cold, the temperature would not come up. The injectors were pulled and tested. They put a fuel pump in and this corrected the problem and it ran fine. When the fuel piping was put in, the fuel return meter was standing vertically. It was changed to horizontal to see if it would change the outcome of our return fuel which it has not at this point. We lost the oil pump from generator bearing in #7 Cat. This was discovered when Ziegler was here to change out an oil pressure gauge that was bad, they noticed it was not running. We were able to get a new motor from Electric Motor Services the following day.

In the Water Department, Scott D. spoke to the Minnesota Department of Health regarding lowering the chlorine. From recommendations by the Department of Health, since we are not losing any chlorine at this time so lowering the chlorine would be acceptable. 100 fire hydrants were painted this year. The hydrants that do not drain had the pumper caps painted yellow. For those hydrants, we purchased and will install discs that go under the pumper caps which state pump after use. They are flushing at Kwik Trip. Their water passed Bac T test and has been turned on. Aldi's water is good.

In the Electric Department, the line crew is working on the fairgrounds project burying the primary from 14th Avenue North to 11th Avenue North and 2nd Street North to 5th Street North upgrading services to 7200V. Approximately 60% of the homes in that area will be burying their customer service lines. They have also been working up at Riverview Terrace. Residents in this area were offered the same discount to bury their customer service lines, however there was no response to this offer. Kwik Trip's power will be plowed in on Friday. They will be doing some burying from 2nd Street South and 1st Street in the alley. There are a few residents in this area requesting to go underground. At Aldi's, we are waiting for the CT enclosures and cable runs to the transformers.

- E. Manager Wangen received the City of Princeton's Franchise Fee agreement to review. After speaking with our attorney, there will need to be some changes to mention if PPUC takes over service territory from Connexus or East Central Energy, we will have the right to serve those areas and the franchise fee would follow. Dairy Queen has approval to build by Coborn's.
- F. Manager Wangen reported she has received an e-mail confirmation from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency that our Air Emissions Permit has been approved. We have also received an electronic copy of the permit. It is posted on the MPCA website and all public postings have been approved. A hard copy should be received within a week.
- G. There was a meeting at the PPUC office last Thursday regarding the Sherburne County roundabout which is scheduled for 2019 construction. Currently, Connexus Energy provides the power in that area. The watermain may need to be moved by Princeton Auto and Burger King. The way it lays now, if there was a break on that main it would shut down entrances into those businesses. At this time, there is a possibility the cost to move the watermain could be included in the roundabout which would be paid for by Sherburne County. Final determination of this will not be known for a while.

Manager Wangen reported the final payment on the Middle Water Tower restoration has not been paid yet. We are still waiting for the lawn restoration and a few other issues. T-Mobile is still on their mobile antenna and have not gone back on the water tower. We have received a signed amendment to the lease agreement with T-Mobile.

Manager Wangen and Scott D. met with the Minnesota Department of Health regarding the Wellhead Protection Plan. PPUC's Wellhead Plan is due to expire 2022. This plan must be updated every 10 years. We were informed we will have to hire a consultant or engineer firm to help with the renewal. There will be several meetings held and letters that need to go out which they would like to attend and be involved in. Manager Wangen is recommending starting early on this renewal. Consensus of the PPUC Commission was for Manager Wangen to contact the Minnesota Department of Health and start budging for the renewal in 2019.

Manager Wangen has a meeting scheduled at Princeton City Hall with the Princeton School District on October 3rd at 2:00 P.M. regarding their private well. She and Scott D. will be meeting with some of the school board members and any PUC Commissioners that are available.

The MMUA Safety Management Contract for 2019 has been received with a \$950.00 increase for monthly safety training. JT&S which is geared towards lineman training will remain the same. The driving force on the increase is the increase in health insurance and administrative costs. Mr. Findell made a motion to approve the 2019 MMUA Safety Management Program for the period of 10/1/18 to 9/30/19. Mr. Freichels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Past due utility bills as of August 31, 2018 was presented to the PUC Commission for approval to be assessed to 2019 property taxes. Mr. Freichels made a motion to approve the past due assessments to the 2019 property taxes. Mr. Findell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding the 2018 Christmas Lighting Contest. This year's contest will be for Residential customers of the PUC.

Resolution 18-10 RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON REGARDING AUTHORIZING THE SERVICES OF MINUTEMAN PRESS, PRINCETON, MN for the use of their services for printing and web design/upgrades in the amount of \$62.50 through September 25, 2018 was presented. Mr. Findell made a motion to accept Resolution 18-10. Mr. Freichels seconded. Ms. Siercks abstained from voting.

The September 2018 Connector Newsletter was included.

Scott D. reported the roof of the Electric Shop has been leaking. The old part of the shop has been leaking for some time. He feels the rear part of the shop where the trucks are parked should to be replaced. In the meantime, they asked for approval to look into building an addition onto the south side of the warehouse to store the equipment while the rear part of the shop is tore down and rebuilt. They also discussed the idea of the area rezoned to essential service. He will investigate the zoning and replacement of the shop and bring back to the PPUC Commission.

The attached list of bills was reviewed and approved by the Commission.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Mindi Siercks
Chairman

Kathy Ohman
Secretary