

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

July 27, 2022, 1:00 P.M.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Regular Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission, City of Princeton, was held at the Mille Lacs County Historical Society Depot Museum in the Amdall Room, 202 10th Avenue South, on July 27th, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Richard Schwartz and Commissioners Dan Erickson and Jack Edmonds.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Manager Keith Butcher, Secretary Kathy Ohman, City Administrator Michele McPherson, City Councilor Jules Zimmer, Electric Superintendent Jeremy Linden, Water/Power Plant Superintendent Scott Schmit, Dave Geschwind, Executive Director and CEO from SMMPA and Mark Mitchell, Director of Operations and Chief Operating Officer from SMMPA.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Schwartz at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Schwartz called for additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

Mr. Erickson made a motion to approve the agenda of the July 27, 2022 Regular PUC Commission Meeting. Mr. Edmonds seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Erickson moved to approve the Minutes for the June 22, 2022 Regular PUC Commission Meeting. Mr. Edmonds seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no Public Comments.

Mr. Erickson made a motion to approve the certification of accounts payable for the period of June 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. Mr. Edmonds seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. REPORTS:

- a. Included in the Commission packets were the July SMMPA Key Metrics worksheet and June 8, 2022 Board Meeting minutes.
- b. Included in the Commission packets were the June 2022 PUC financial reports.
- c. The June 2022 EV and ACH Reports were included in the Commission packets.

7. PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Mark Mitchell, Director of Operations and Chief Operating Officer from SMMPA reported to the PPU Commission on power delivery.

Dave Geschwind, Executive Director and CEO from SMMPA reported on the energy market and the increase in cost to purchase power. SMMPA reserves have dropped and with the changes in the industry, the Board of Directors approved an increase up to 10% to take effect on November 1, 2022. It is possible this will be a short term increase. There was a discussion on the energy market and reasons for the volatility.

Mark Mitchell and Dave Geschwind from SMMPA left the meeting.

8. UPDATES:

- a. Electric Superintendent Jeremy Linden provided the Electric Department update.
- b. Water/Power Plant Superintendent Scott Schmit provided the Water Department update and the Power Plant update.
- c. City Administrator Michele McPherson and City Councilor Jules Zimmer provided an update on City activities.
- d. General Manager Keith Butcher provided an update on PPU activities.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

a. **COMMISSION MEETING CHANGE**

There was a discussion on moving the Regular PUC Commission Meeting scheduled for August 24th to August 17th, 2022 and the November 16th meeting to November 15th, 2022. Mr. Schwartz made a motion to move the August 24th Regular PUC Commission Meeting to August 17th, 2022 and the November 16th Regular PUC Commission Meeting to November 15th, 2022. Mr. Erickson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

b. **ACH CREDIT EXPIRATION**

General Manager Keith Butcher presented Memo 21-15: ACH Credit Update. At the January 2022 Regular PUC Commission Meeting, the Commission approved a credit of 3% on the water portion of customer's bills if they pay via ACH through August of 2022. There was a discussion on keeping the 3% credit in place. Mr. Erickson made a motion to keep a credit of 3% on the water portion of customer's bills if they pay via ACH through February 2023 with a review of the program at that time. Mr. Edmonds seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

c. **CHOOSE GREEN PROPOSAL**

General Manager Keith Butcher presented Memo 21-16: Choose Green to the PUC Commission for approval. Choose Green would allow customers to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (REC) to offset the carbon footprint of electricity used by our customers. Current REC price is \$0.003 / kWh. Each REC is independently tracked and verified. Customer may elect to purchase up to their annual

consumption at any point during the year. PPU will market and promote the program. Mr. Erickson made a motion to approve the Choose Green Renewable Energy program. Mr. Edmonds seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

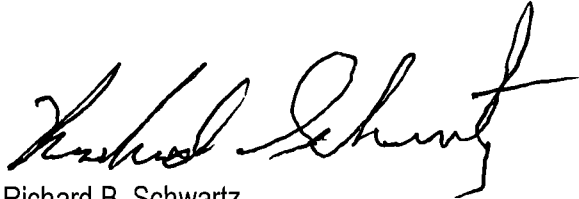
d. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Edmonds made a motion to close the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Commission at 3:15 p.m. for the purpose of completing the performance and evaluation review of the General Manager. Mr. Erickson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

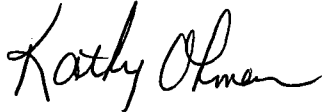
The regular session of the Public Utilities Commission was resumed a 4:05 p.m.

Mr. Edmonds made a motion to approve the step increase for General Manager Keith Butcher. Mr. Erickson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Mr. Edmonds made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m. Mr. Erickson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



Richard B. Schwartz
Chair



Kathy Ohman
Secretary