



**Halstad Municipal Utilities Commission met 11/25/19 at 4:35 PM at the Utilities Office.**

Commissioners President Tom Maroney, Darin Johnson, Ron Gotteberg  
Staff- Lucas Spaeth- Superintendent, Allison Tice Office Coordinator

Additions to agenda – NA

Approval of agenda – Motion Gotteberg, Second Johnson, M/C

Approval of minutes – Motion Gotteberg, Second Maroney, M/C

Check and credit card approval – Motion Gotteberg, Second Maroney, to approve expenditures. M/C

Financials Reviewed Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet- Discussed

Spaeth reported on loop feed to finish along 5<sup>th</sup> St E after the 75 work has been completed.

Report for railroad property and rock sale complete. Tax statements for property were mailed to Halstad Municipal Utilities for 2020

Commissioners were informed of wage overpayment to Military personnel while on Military leave. The adjustment would be 1422.90 Johnson motioned to approve staffer to use vacation to pay back overage; seconded by Gotteberg. M/C

Utility rate discussion continued from previous months. Current Off-Peak (OP) rates are less than what our wholesale cost is on an annual average. HMU latest Cost of Service study will be reviewed for upcoming rate changes. Commissioners would like to come review the OP form last few years. Discussion with Spaeth of moving rates on a monthly basis or different options to lose less. Motion Maroney; Second by Gotteberg to increase Water 6%, Sewer 10%, and Garbage rates. Garbage rates will be increases on residential \$0.75 , \$7.5 one yard, \$15 two yard. Commercial increase \$1.00 per month.

Electric update from Superintendent Spaeth about generator major maintenance happening this week by Interstate Power. Spaeth reported that MISO is discounting diesel generators in the market down to 76 percent, after the last two years discounting from 100 percent to 88 percent, 86 percent, and next June 76 percent. MISO will also require five to fifteen minute metering.

Natural gas discussion to discuss the forward momentum needed to accomplish a municipal gas utility. Community benefit will need to be known and costs to supply the infrastructure.

Employee wages were discussed with 2019 wage increase proposed as a two year process. Commissioners discussed the possibility of using another year for catchup. A Motion was made by Gotteberg; Second by Maroney to approve the 2019 second step for wage increase for 2020. M/C

Superintendent report included updates on participating in FMSCA CDL driver's clearinghouse for 2020. Construction costs for putting sheet metal are high for Utilities building, an addition of overhead door and new standard size windows with painting might be an economical solution for the building. Spaeth reported on upcoming meeting attending with NMPA and Minnkota.

Other business:

Next Regular Meeting Date –

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Johnson, second Gotteberg. M/C

Meeting Adjourned 6:30 PM

Secretary

Lucas Spaeth