



Halstad Municipal Utilities Commission met 07/29/24 at 1:20 PM at the Utilities Office.

Commissioners President Tom Maroney, Ron Gotteberg, Darin Johnson

Staff- Lucas Spaeth- Superintendent and Secretary, Allison Tice

Additions to agenda –none

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

Gotteberg Motioned to close the meeting to discuss personnel: Seconded Johnson. M/C Discussion of employee was held between Spaeth and Commissioners. Gotteberg Motioned to reopen the meeting: Second Johnson. M/C

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

Check and credit card approval – Motion Gotteberg, Second Maroney, to approve monthly claims for March and April. M/C

Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet- Reviewed financials that show losses in electric, water, sewer year-to-date primarily low electric sales, labor costs, and inflationary expenses in the operations and maintenance. Further discussion about need for rate increases would be covered in agenda.

Spaeth reviewed remodeling exterior and interior at the utilities offices. Spaeth commented on the painting done in the backyard at the office and the need to complete some finish work in backyard.

Water discussion took place, Spaeth updated Commissioners on the West Central Regional steering committee meetings. Briefly described the Small Cities Development Program and the USDA application process.

Lead and Copper Rule Revision phase one inventory had been submitted. Tice commented that the city needed to find ways to get more participation. The inventory was only partly filled and were a lot of unknowns for service pipe materials that we wanted.

Zeigler contract for service was presented by Spaeth. He commented that some services were necessary for complying with an Insurance program we participate in with League of MN Insurance Trust. That participation credits the premium of our Equipment Breakdown 10%. Insurance continues to climb and the Zeigler services provided are utility best practices for safety and asset management. Gotteberg Motion to approve \$21,208 for Zeigler: Second Maroney. M/C

Spaeth made brief remarks what NMPA has been doing for the Agency participants. Spaeth continued to say NMPA would be looking at extensions of contracts or changes with partners at the Coyote plant and the Minnkota agreements. Power Supply planning is under way to make sure MN laws for Carbon are met. Asset investments beyond year 2041 are being discussed in strategic planning.

Spaeth updated the Commission about the Borup and Perley service contracts.

Spaeth supplied the Well Head Protection grant was finalized with \$10,000 grant expected to come from MN Department of Health. Utility rates were presented by Tice. Staff had worked on percentage increases in Electric, Sewer, and Water rates. Commissioners discussed Off-peak rates and the ability of staff to supply information next month that would explain. As well that staff look at minimums for monthly. Tice and Spaeth would supply information gathered before the next Regular Commission meeting.

Spaeth provided information of the Energy Audit that MN Rural Water Association (MRWA) did for the Water plant and the HVAC in the Utilities office. Details in report showed significant savings with our existing Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs.) Could look for Soft Starters in some pump areas in the Wastewater facility.

Tice commented on the Certificate of Deposit (CD) held at Red River State Bank. Tice would follow up after the existing expires in August and would renew according to budget needs in 2025.

Tony Wolff, Amanda Nelson, Matthew Warner attended meeting from 3:10-3:25pm Superintendent report was given by Spaeth updating on daily tasks that staff had been doing. Rental of gatevalve exercise machine from MRWA was being completed by August 2. Minnkota asked for generators to run on August 1 so they could replace a Potential Transformer in Halstad substation. Some land may need to be purchase of annexed by City for Small Cities Development. Possible to come in with metering and header

Next regular council meeting August 12, 2024.

Next Regular Meeting Date – August, 20 @ 1 PM

No other business to discuss.

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

Meeting adjourned 3:40 PM

Secretary- Lucas Spaeth