

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

A meeting of the Beatrice Board of Public Works was held on the 11th day of March, 2015 at 12:15 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room, 400 Ella Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

Attending: Boardmembers: Eskra, Baehr, Leech, Moon, and Moran.

Absent: Boardmembers: None.

Chairman Dave Eskra announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is available in the meeting room and is accessible to members of the public.

City Clerk, Linda Koch, administered the Oath of Office to Gregory Leech.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve agenda as submitted.
- b. Receive and place on file all notices pertaining to this meeting.
- c. Receive and place on file all materials having any bearing on this meeting.
- d. Approval of minutes of regular BPW Board meeting on February 25, 2015.
- e. Recommend approval of Street Department Report of Claims to City Council in the amount of \$31,276.05.
- f. Approval of Electric Department, Water Department, and WPC Department Report of Claims.
 - (1) Approval of claims to Security First Bank totaling \$130,093.36.
 - (2) Approval of balance of Electric Department, Water Department, and WPC Department Report of Claims in the amount of \$369,201.65.

Moved by Baehr, seconded by Moon, that the items listed under the consent agenda, be approved, accepted, and/or ratified as presented.

Roll Call: Yea: Eskra, Baehr, Leech, Moon, Moran
Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Boardmember Baehr abstained from item f(1).

ORDINANCES

Ordinance to amend Sections 26-45 and 26-46 of the Beatrice City Code, setting utility payment due dates.

Tobias Tempelmeyer, General Manager, reported to the Board that upon review of the Beatrice City Code, it was discovered that the city code regarding utility payment due dates does not match the current practices. According to City Code, all bills are due ten (10) days following the date the bill was mailed and if a bill is not paid when due, the BPW has the right to disconnect services. The current practice is when your bill is mailed, it had a due date, delinquent date, and then a disconnect date. The proposed ordinance would simply match City Code to our current practices.

Moved by Moran, seconded by Baehr, to recommend to Mayor and City Council to pass and approve the ordinance to amend Sections 26-45 and 26-46 of the Beatrice City Code, setting utility payment due dates.

Roll Call: Yea: Eskra, Baehr, Leech, Moon, Moran
Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Disconnection Policy

Tobias Tempelmeyer, General Manager, reviewed proposed Board Policy #144 outlining the procedures for utility disconnection.

Moved by Moon, seconded by Baehr, to approve Board Policy #144 Procedural Policies for Utility Disconnection, as presented.

Roll Call: Yea: Eskra, Baehr, Leech, Moon, Moran
Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Financials

Tobias Tempelmeyer, General Manager, presented to the Board the financial review for October 2014, November 2014, December 2014, and January 2015. Boardmember Moran inquired why there was such a significant difference between January 2014 and January 2015. Janet Byars, BPW Office Manager, noted that there were three (3) payrolls in the month of January 2015, there was also retro pay and payout for excess sick leave pursuant to the Union Contract, and revenues were also down a little bit. Chairman Eskra noted that the Water and WPC Departments are showing a nice increase and asked if the Department Heads are comfortable with the biennial budget. The Department Heads noted that they are comfortable with it. Boardmember Baehr noted that the NPPD and WAPA charges were higher in November and Feist noted that there were two (2) cold days at the end of November 2014 which set the demand at a higher rate. Boardmember Moon noted he was concerned with the delay of the financials being presented due to the audit being delayed and questioned if this would happen again next year. Byars noted that the delay should not happen next year and also noted that there were still some issues with the conversion. Boardmember Moon noted that in the future he would like to see preliminary figures on a monthly basis rather than receiving financial reports that are for the previous four to five (4-5) months.

Moved by Baehr, seconded by Moran, to receive the financials for October 2014, November 2014, December 2014, and January 2015 and place on file.

Roll Call: Yea: Eskra, Baehr, Leech, Moon, Moran
Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Alternate Energy Suppliers

Tobias Tempelmeyer, General Manager, discussed with the Board the desire to hire an outside consultant to assist in evaluating alternate energy suppliers. Two (2) proposals from consultants

were received. In the proposal received from Todd Hegwer, Public Power Energy Services, LLC, his fee would include out-of-pocket travel expenses and a consulting fee of \$0.30 per megawatt hour for any energy purchased through a contract he helped the City with. The estimated consulting fee for a five (5) year contract would be approximately \$28,000.00 plus out-of-pocket expenses. In the proposal received from John Krajewski, JK Energy Consulting, LLC, his fee would be approximately \$8-12,000.00 plus any out-of-pocket travel expenses. John would also review the option for the City to build its own self-generation for an additional \$2-3,000.00. The City has worked with JK Energy Consulting, LLC in the past and has been happy with the work. Tobias Tempelmeyer and Pat Feist, Electric Superintendent, both recommend entering into an agreement with JK Energy Consulting, LLC. Boardmember Baehr inquired if the City had ever worked with Public Power Energy Services, LLC and Tempelmeyer noted that the City had not. Boardmember Moran inquired if the consultant would provide us with new information about the City that would be helpful. Feist noted that they would help to write the RFP and work to find the best possible provider to ensure the City get a good end result. Feist also noted that it is possible that the best solution for the City may not be a local company, but a consultant would help ensure that they would be a reliable source for the City. Boardmember Moran noted that NPPD states that they are affordable and dependable and inquired if NPPD would continue to maintain the infrastructure as they currently do in order to deliver the power to the City. Feist noted that NPPD would continue to maintain the infrastructure as they currently do and would be required to deliver our energy needs, the City would simply pay a wheeling fee. Chairman Eskra inquired who sets the wheeling fee. Feist noted that it is set under Federal regulations. Boardmember Moon inquired if the consultant would weigh in all aspects, including the care and upkeep of the substations that are currently maintained by NPPD. Tempelmeyer noted that they would take everything into consideration.

Moved by Moon, seconded by Leech, to recommend to Mayor and City Council to enter into a consultant agreement with JK Energy Consulting, LLC.

Roll Call: Yea: Eskra, Baehr, Leech, Moon, Moran
 Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Monthly Department Report

The monthly department report was presented. Some highlights include: the Armor Coat project bids have been received and bids will be received for the Misc. Concrete Street Repairs Project #15-005 and Lake Ridge Estates Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project #15-004; the Water Department has a couple employees off due to injuries and one (1) has come back on light duty with the newly implemented Return to Work Policy; the Street Department noted that the liquid de-icer has been a good change with winter storm cleanup.

Moved by Moran, seconded by Moon, that the monthly department report be received and placed on file.

Roll Call: Yea: Eskra, Baehr, Leech, Moon, Moran
 Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Board of Public Works meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2015 at 12:15 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room, 400 Ella Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

Moved by Baehr, seconded by Moran, that the meeting be adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Yea: Eskra, Baehr, Leech, Moon, Moran
 Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Attest:

Dave Eskra, Chairman

Bob Moran, Secretary