

CWEP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2024

The Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board met in regular session January 18, 2024, 3:00 p.m. at the CWEP Office, 627 W Centennial, Carthage, MO.

Board:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Schmidt - President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sid Teel - Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Ross- Vice President* | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Garrison – Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darren Collier -Secretary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G. Stephen Beimdiek- Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Snow -Liaison | |

* Attended via videoconference

Staff:

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Bryant-General Manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Choate-Director of Water Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cassandra Ludwig-General Counsel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelli Nugent/CFO |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Peterson-Director of IT & Broadband | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Emery-Director of Power Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Kirby- Executive Assistant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Howard-Director of Business & ED |

President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Ross and seconded by Collier to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2023, as presented, passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:

A motion by Teel and seconded by Collier to approve disbursements for December in the amount of \$4,029,353.16, passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

CFO Nugent presented the December 2023 financials to the Board, noting that combined operating expenses were under budget for the month and year to date combined operating revenues exceeded budget for the month. Purchased power expense was lower than budget with a decrease in gas prices and CWEP's transmission positions in SPP. Water revenues for the month of December exceeded budget. Wastewater revenues were under budget, and water operating expenses were under budget. Communication revenues exceeded budget for the month and communication operating expenses continue to be less than budget.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Collier to approve the December 2023 financials passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Schmidt reported to the Board on behalf of the salary study committee, noting that the committee has met weekly with Lockton and will continue meeting on a regular basis. Schmidt informed the Board that the committee has settled on a list of comparable utilities and are now working to finalize the survey questions.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION PERIOD: None

OLD BUSINESS: None.

At 3:18, a motion by Beimdiek and seconded by Collier to close a portion of the meeting pursuant to Section 610.021(2) of the Sunshine Law, to discuss the leasing, purchase, or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration therefor, passed unanimously via a roll call vote.

Beimdiek:	Aye
Collier:	Aye
Garrison:	Aye
Ross:	Aye
Schmidt:	Aye
Teel:	Aye

The meeting went into closed session.

At 3:38, the meeting reconvened in open session.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. PRESENTATION BY JOHN TWITTY, PRESIDENT & CEO OF MISSOURI PUBLIC UTILITY ALLIANCE

General Manager Bryant introduced John Twitty, President & CEO of Missouri Public Utility Alliance, to the Board. He noted John Twitty as a Leader in the utility Industry and a trusted advisor. Mr. Twitty gave the Board an overview of MPUA and the services it offers its members. Mr. Twitty explained MPUA as being a wholesale power supplier, delivering industry-leading solutions, robust advocacy, and collaboration for local benefit as well as technical support and significant safety and training work, which includes an apprentice lineman program. Mr. Twitty discussed the current status and the future of the power grid, answering questions from Board members. General Manager Bryant thanked Mr. Twitty for his presentation.

STAFF REPORTS:

GM Bryant discussed the status of the Dogwood plant agreement. He reported on Winter Storm Heather. He reported staff met with MFA and Fleet Fuels regarding the purchase of diesel fuel, noting diesel prices have been the lowest they have been since Winter Storm Uri. He noted the water department has been busy with main breaks in extreme temperatures. He noted there have been dozens of calls per day of customers with frozen pipes, as well as several callouts in one evening for water shutoffs for frozen pipes. He reported there have been a series of internet outages that have been out of our control but staff has done a great job of getting those customers back on in a timely manner. He also provided the Board with an update on the status of the Tri-state water project.

CFO Nugent noted departments have been working on Budget and she has been working with Toth & Associates on the Cost of Service Rate Study. Nugent commended Stinebrook on finishing her 1st term on the MAPP Board and noted she was sworn in to serve another two years as the Professional Development and Education Chair on the MAPP Board.

General Counsel Ludwig gave an update on the status of the commercial customer that filed bankruptcy. She also noted that communication has been great between all departments and customer service regarding the power outages. She reported customer service and Electric crews are working together to come up with a plan on how to educate customers about the 69-line project coming up.

Director of Business and Economic Development Howard discussed the recent Leggett & Platt press release and how that could impact CWEP.

Director of Broadband and IT services Peterson gave details on recent internet outages.

Director of Power Services Emery noted the plant ran really well during Winter Storm Heather and expressed his appreciation to his crews on their willingness and readiness to work longer hours.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board member Teel noted he got to witness some of the work our crews do with the emergency flooding that happened at the courthouse. He reported staff responded very fast.

Vice President Ross thanked John Twitty for his knowledge and support.

Board President Schmidt thanked fiber crews for their work over the last week.

At 5:16pm, a motion by Beimdiek and seconded by Collier to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

President – Brian Schmidt

Secretary – Darren Collier