

CWEP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2020

The Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board met in regular session October 15, 2020, 4:00 p.m. at the CWEP Office, 627 W Centennial, Carthage, MO.

Board:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G. Stephen Beimdiek- President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Schmidt - Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danny Lambeth -Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Goff – Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ron Ross -Secretary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neel Baucom - Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Snow -Liaison | |

Staff:

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

Board Member Baucom called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Goff and seconded by Schmidt to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 19,2020 as presented passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Beimdiek to approve disbursements for August in the amount of \$5,382,693.36 passed unanimously.

A motion by Goff and seconded by Lambeth to approve disbursements for September in the amount of \$3,389,281.68 passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

GM Bryant presented the financials for August noting that the revenues continued to be strong despite the cooler temperatures the latter part of August. Expenses were lower than budget, although purchased power was over budget by approximately \$105,000. She noted that power and water loss percentages for the month were -1.09% and 6.49%, respectively.

A motion by Beimdiek and seconded by Goff to approve August financials passed unanimously.

GM Bryant presented the financials for September noting that overall, September was a good month for all departments. Revenues again remain strong for the month and for the year to date. Operating expenses for the month were lower than budget and prior year, largely due to the annual cost true-up from Sikeston on the power contract. She noted that power and water loss percentages came in at -14.89% and -2.36%, respectively.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Beimdiek to approve September financials passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION PERIOD: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF 2 HALF-TON CREW CAB PICKUPS

General Manager Bryant noted a request to proceed with the purchase of two 2021 half-ton 4x4 crew cab pickup trucks was made. These vehicles meet CWEP's required specifications and will be purchased from Putnam Chevrolet under the MoDOT State Contract. The amount for each truck will be \$26,767.00. GM Bryant recommends awarding the purchase of these two trucks to Putnam Chevrolet for a total amount of \$59,534.00

A motion by Beimdiek and seconded by Goff to award the purchase of these two trucks to Putnam Chevrolet for a total amount of \$59,534.00, passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CURED-IN-PLACE-MANHOLE (CIPM) LINER PROJECT (VISU-SEWER)

General Manager Bryant announced in reference to the manhole repair and rehabilitation contract that CWEP has with Visu-Sewer of Missouri, a proposal to install Cured-In-Place-Manhole (CIPM) liners has been submitted for this rehabilitation project. The amount for the project is \$433,119.30 and includes labor, material, and equipment.

A motion by Goff and seconded by Beimdiek to proceed with this Cured-In-Place-Manhole project, passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF CWEP NETWORK SWITCHES

General Manager Bryant reported an approval request to proceed with purchasing five network switches that will include all correlating software, licensing, and support which will be used for the CWEP network was submitted. This purchase is offered under a cooperative contract that will not require a formal bidding process and still provides competitive pricing. The amount of this purchase will be \$42,987.86, from BlueAlly.

GM Bryant recommends proceeding with the purchase from BlueAlly in the amount of \$42,987.86.

A motion by Beimdiek and seconded by Schmidt to proceed with purchasing five network switches from BlueAlly, passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION FOR CWEP UNDERGROUND FIBER CONTRACTORS

General Manager Bryant noted CWEP received six proposals from established contracting firms for the CWEP underground fiber construction services project. After a thorough assessment, it was determined that Lan-Tel Communications Services, Inc. provided the lowest proposal and demonstrated strong qualifications within their proposal and are prepared to begin immediately.

The CWEP fiber team and Communications Department would like to designate Lan-Tel as the initial primary contractor for the fiber construction services project and to receive all the work if timelines and quality services are met. It is also recommended that L&B Services, Gaebe Contracting, Ewing Signal Construction, and Pomeroy Services be awarded designation as additional pre-approved contractors if the CWEP Communications Department deems it necessary to supplement or replace the primary contractor.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Goff to award Lan-Tel as the primary contractor and L&B services, Gaebe Contracting, Ewing Signal Construction, and Pomeroy Services as supplemental contractors, passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES FOR THE TOBACCO AND NICOTINE-FREE POLICY AND THE BENEFITS, HEALTH AND DISABILITY POLICY

General Manager Bryant presented the Tobacco and Nicotine-Free policy and the Benefits, Health and Disability Policy to the board. He explained the revisions made of the two policies.

A motion by Lambeth and seconded by Beimdiek to accept the changes made to the Tobacco and Nicotine-Free policy and the Benefits, Health and Disability policy, passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF HEALTH INSURANCE PROPOSAL

General Counsel Ludwig reviewed the proposal from Cox Health Insurance for renewing the existing plan as is with no change in coverage and 0% increase in premium. Tobacco policies will also stay the same, tobacco users will pay 25% of the cost of their premiums. Ludwig noted majority of plans are seeing an increase and CWEP is lucky to not be seeing an increase.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Goff to accept the Cox Partners 80 Plan, with no change in coverage and 0% increase in premium, passed unanimously. Beimdiek was present in the meeting but abstained from voting.

CONSIDERATION OF AN ENERGY MANagements SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TYR ENERGY

General Manager Bryant presented the Addendum NO. 1 to Master Power Purchase and Sale agreement by and between Carthage Water and Electric Plant and Tyr Energy, LLC to the Board.

A motion by Lambeth and seconded by Beimdiek to accept the Energy Management Services Agreement with Tyr Energy, passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

General Manager Bryant gave a COVID update to the board and commended managers and staff for doing a good job at isolation the transmission of COVID among employees. GM Bryant noted construction on the complex and is moving along quickly. He reported Andrew Moore is leaving CWEP for Liberty Utilities, so a new Fiber Technician will be in need. GM Bryant noted a new Customer Service Representative will be starting on Monday and a new Accountant will also be started next week. GM Bryant announced he attended his first APPA board meeting in a virtual setting, he is excited to bring some HR opportunities to CWEP from that setting.

Director IT and Broadband Services Peterson announced AMI is underway, Elvis has been working hard to continue moving forward with that project. He reported staff is working to deploy the mesh network, getting equipment in this year so CWEP can deploy the first test area. He noted Fiber crews are ready to add more customers as they are allowed.

Director of Business & ED Howard reported a New boot manufacturer is moving into the old Justin Boot Building.

Director of Power Service Emery reported Davy Resource Group is back to full capacity after sending some staff to help at another work site. End of December is when they are expected to complete their work.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

At 4:55 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

President – Steve Beimdiek

Secretary – Ron Ross