

CWEP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2024

The Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board met in regular session March 21, 2024, 3:00 p.m. at the CWEP Office, 627 W Centennial, Carthage, MO.

Board:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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 | |

Staff:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Bryant-General Manager | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Choate-Director of Water Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cassandra Ludwig-General Counsel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelli Nugent/CFO |
| <input 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 |

Other Staff Present: Mandy Bates, Accountant; Ben Schwarting, Accountant

President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Beimdiek and seconded by Ross to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2024, as presented, passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:

A motion by Ross and seconded by Garrison to approve disbursements for February in the amount of \$5,747,013.55, passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

CFO Nugent presented the February 2024 financials to the Board, noting that combined operating expenses exceeded budget for the month due to the timing of the \$1.5 million payment for the industrial park property which was originally budgeted in October. She noted combined operating revenues exceeded budget for the month and year to date. Purchased power expense was lower than expected. Water revenues for the month of February exceeded budget. Wastewater revenues exceeded budget for the month and year to date, and water

operating expenses exceeded budget for the month. Communication revenues exceeded budget for the month and communication operating expenses exceeded budget for the month.

A motion by Beimdiek and seconded by Ross to approve the February 2024 financials passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

General Manager Bryant gave an update to the Board on behalf of the salary study committee. He noted Lockton kept the survey open a week longer than originally planned to allow time for participants to return the survey, but it is now closed. He reported there has been a great turnout of participation. Lockton is working hard to sort through all the information turned in. The committee will meet again April 3rd to review.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION PERIOD: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. PRESENTATION BY CRAIG WOYCHEESE WITH TOTH AND ASSOCIATES

General Manager Bryant introduced Craig Woycheese, CPA and Paul Ruban, Rate Specialist with Toth & Associates who then reviewed the cost-of-service study recently completed for CWEP's electric, water and wastewater utilities. Mr. Woycheese noted that he has been working with CWEP staff in gathering information for evaluating revenue, cost of service, and rate analysis.

Mr. Woycheese commended CWEP staff in their growing knowledge of rate studies and expressed his appreciation in working with a great group of employees.

GM Bryant noted that CWEP Staff has been well pleased with their dealings with Toth and Associates.

2. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR THE SUB 2 UPGRADE PROJECT

General Manager Bryant reported a formal request was issued seeking qualified contractors to construct the Sub 2 upgrade project. He noted proposals were received from B&L Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$3,142,142.38 and BBC Electrical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$4,687,257.81.

After a thorough assessment, B&L Electric, Inc. met all specifications and requirements of the request and offered the lowest project cost.

A motion by Collier and seconded by Beimdiek to award this project to B&L Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$3,142,142.38, passed unanimously.

3. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR A ½ TON PICKUP TRUCK

GM Bryant noted CWEP requested proposals for a new in-stock ½ ton, V8, 4x4 crew cab truck for the meter services department. Proposals were received from Joe Machens Ford on an in-stock V6 truck in the amount of \$51,265.00. Joe Machens also proposed a V8 truck for \$46,574.00 indicating a 6-month lead time. Ed Morse Chevrolet North provided a proposal for \$51,503.95 on a new V8 truck that would meet the department's needs and available for purchase and delivery.

It was recommended awarding to Ed Morse Chevrolet North, in California, Missouri in the total amount of \$51,503.95.

A motion by Collier and seconded by Teel to award this purchase to Ed Morse Chevrolet North, in California, Missouri in the total amount of \$51,503.95, passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR A UTILITY CONTRACTING SERVICES TRUCK

General Manager Bryant reported proposals were requested for the communications department on a new 4500 or 5500 4x4 diesel, crew cab truck with a utility bed. Olathe Fleet Solutions provided a proposal on a 2023, F450 for \$91,130.00. Proposals were also received from Peterson Ram Jeep in Idaho on a 2024, 5500 truck for \$95,061.00, and from Kayser Chrysler Center in Wisconsin on a 2024, 5500 truck for \$95,997.00. The beds on these trucks exceeded the maximum length, which would make it difficult to maneuver in some locations.

CWEP received a proposal from Moses Lake Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, LLC located in Washington, on a 2024, 5500 truck for \$98,806.00, which includes delivery. This truck will provide the provisions and equipment that will best serve the department's needs.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Collier to award this purchase to Moses Lake Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, LLC, in the amount of \$98,806.00, passed unanimously.

5. RECOMMENDATION OF A 4-YEAR LEASE FOR TWO NEW BACKHOES

General Manager Bryant noted CWEP's current leases for the backhoes will be expiring. Fabick Cat provided CWEP with several lease options for consideration. After evaluating, the best and most cost-effective lease option would be a four-year lease. The total annual cost to lease two new units will be \$51,011.77 and available on a cooperative contract, providing CWEP with competitive pricing. The units will continue to be serviced regularly as in previous leases.

A motion by Beimdiek and seconded by Teel to proceed with the four-year lease agreement with Fabick Cat at the annual cost of \$51,011.77, passed unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024.02: ENERGY GRID RESILIENCE AND INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING AUTHORIZATION

General Manager Bryant presented Resolution 2024.02 to the Board. A resolution of the Carthage Water and Electric Board, authorizing an energy grid resilience and innovative partnership application to pursue grant funding for improving grid resiliency. GM Bryant noted the commitment CWEP has to providing its residents with a high-quality utility infrastructure. He added CWEP will be dedicated to exploring funding sources to support utility grid infrastructure resilience.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Teel to approve Resolution 2024.02: Energy Grid Resilience and Innovative partnership application for grant funding authorization, passed unanimously.

7. PRESENTATIONS FROM MPUA AND MEC

Mike Siefert, Director of Generating Assets and Rebecca Atkins, Chief Markets Officer with Missouri Public Utility Alliance (MPUA) provided the Board with information regarding the Natural Gas Prepay Agreement and gave an overview of the Dogwood Energy Center and Plum Point including background information, owners of the facilities, MEC participants, and yearly operations summaries.

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024.01: AMENDED POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH MEC

General Manager Bryant presented the resolution recommending and requesting that the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri, enter into an amended and restated unit power purchase agreement with Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission and Dogwood Energy.

A motion by Beimdiek and seconded by Collier to approve Resolution 2024.01: Amended Power Purchase Agreement with MEC, passed unanimously.

9. PRESENTATION BY TYR ENERGY

General Manager Bryant introduced Bob Moyer with TYR Energy to the Board, highlighting briefly how they helped Carthage Water and Electric Plant manage market interaction during Winter Storm Uri back in February of 2021. Bob Moyer went into detail about the Energy Management Services that TYR provides including assisting with development of strategy to participate in the SPP market, purchasing energy in the day-ahead and real time markets, run

Carthage generation, submit load bids, monitor system operations and markets during the day and management of settlements and invoicing with SPP.

GM Bryant thanked Bob for taking the time to educate the Board on the services TYR provides for CWEP.

STAFF REPORTS:

CFO Nugent noted staff has been busy working on budget. She reported the purchasing department continues to work hard while continuing to deal with procurement issues.

GM Bryant gave praise to CFO Nugent for all her work being the Chair of the Accounting and Finance Conference Committee. He noted the Tower 2 Tower run will be on May 11th. He reported CWEP was featured in an article on the American Public Power Association (APPA) website highlighting CWEP and all the work they do daily to serve the Carthage Community. They were also featured in the PCS newsletter which highlights the 125th Anniversary of CWEP.

Director of Water Services Choate announced CWEP received the Missouri Rural Water Association's (MRWA)- Water System of the year award.

Director of Business and Economic Development Howard gave an industrial update.

Director of Power Services Emery announced that phase 1 of the Sub 1 improvements project has been completed and they are now starting on phase 2 of the project.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board President Schmidt reminded the Board that next month's Board meeting will be the Budget meeting that will meet at 1:00 pm.

At 6:19 pm, a motion by Beimdiek and seconded by Ross to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

President – Brian Schmidt

Secretary – Darren Collier