

**MINUTES
BOARD OF LOWELL LIGHT AND POWER
REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 13, 2015**

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Canfield and General Manager Greg Pierce called the roll.

Present: Board Members, Greg Canfield, Perry Beachum, Andrew Schrauben & Tina Cadwallader. It was **MOVED BEACHUM, SUPPORTED BY SCHRAUBEN** to excuse the absence of Tamela Spicer.

Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

Absent: Tamela Spicer

Also Present: General Manager Greg Pierce, Electric Distribution Manager Tom Russo, Utility Services Coordinator Morris, Lowell City Mayor Hodges and Greg Northrup from LEAD.

II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Pierce requested to move the Biodigester update from the manager's report, in front of the action items since Greg Northrup was there to give a status report.

It was **MOVED BY SCHRAUBEN, SUPPORTED BY BEACHUM** to approve the agenda as amended.

Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was MOVED BY BEACHUM, SUPPORTED BY SCHRAUBEN to approve the meeting minutes of the July 9, 2015 regular meeting.

Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

It was MOVED BY CADWALLADER, SUPPORTED BY SCHRAUBEN to approve the closed meeting minutes of the July 20, 2015.

Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Items not on the agenda):

There was no public comment.

- **Biodigester update:** Greg Northrup gave an update, and covered many topics regarding the Biodigester project.

V. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Review LLP Annual EO and REP Reports

Pierce reviewed details of the EO and REP summary going out to our customers in our August bill stuffers. Pierce gave an update on our Biennial REP, which shows our projected renewable energy portfolio through 2025.

B. Public Comment on LLP Renewable Energy Plan (REP)

There was no public comment.

C. Accept the LLP Renewable Energy Plan

Pierce answered questions on the 2014 Renewable Energy Annual Report and Biennial REP.

It was MOVED BY SCHRAUBEN, SUPPORTED BY CADWALLADER to accept the Renewable Energy Plan.

Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

D. MERS COLA Percent for 2016

Pierce stated for the last three years, we have decided our own percentages, through MERS, based on the expected/projected Social Security figures ultimately announced in October. Pierce reviewed a list of Social Security cost of living increases as well as MERS COLA percentages given to retirees over the past 5 years. Social Security's cost of living estimate for 2016 is 0.0%. Board discussion followed.

It was MOVED BY BEACHUM, SUPPORTED BY SCHRAUBEN to give a 1% COLA increase to retirees.

Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Performance Data: Pierce reported on July data

B. Income Statement (July 2015): Pierce reported on July's Income Statement. Board discussion occurred.

Pierce reviewed the Capital Expense Summary and detailed Capital Expense Report.

C. **Manager's Report:** Pierce gave updates to the Board on the following items:

- **MPPA/MMEA:**

MMEA Fall Conference is scheduled in Grand Rapids, October 7th-9th at the 28th Street Crowne Plaza.

MMEA is hosting a legislative luncheon, September 16th in Lansing.

- **APPA Update:** Nothing new to report.
- **System/Generation Upgrade Progress:** Greg Northrup gave a bio-digester update prior to the Action Items. July was a stormy month, there were seven outages.
- **LLP Long Term Natural Gas Supply:** Fellon McCord has started to put a team together for our project.
- **Food Fight:** A thank you note was included from Flat River Outreach Ministries for our participation in Food Fight.
- **Lineshack Painting:** Anderson Painting has completed the work. We are having some concrete block repair work done to help stabilize the areas where the block has separated.
- **Lowell Schools:** Solar system discussions continue.
- **Lowell Light and Power Building (Broadway):** Performs owner continues working with the City Planning Commission to identify details on a potential split.
- **LLP PILOT:** Canfield, Howe, Hodges and Pierce have met to discuss.

- **Mutual Aid:** A copy of a Resolution from the City of Portland, for our Mutual Aid activities on their behalf several weeks ago, was reviewed. This week, LLP had a crew in Traverse City helping restore service after their storm.
- **Payables:** Pierce presented July payables.

Schedule of Meetings: August/September was presented.

COMPLAINT REGISTER: There were no new complaints.

VII. NEXT REGULAR LLP BOARD MEETING: The next Board meeting will be held, Thursday, September 10th, 2015.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT:

Cadwallader thanked LLP staff for helping other communities as part of Mutual Aid.

Schrauben commented on Greg Northrup's update. Andrew mentioned, he had not witnessed any odors coming from the bio-digester. He also mentioned there are many types of odors when you drive through town, some may consider them good odors, others may consider them bad odors. They come from a variety of restaurants and manufacturing plant facilities. Andrew mentioned his family took a private tour of Swiss Lane.

Beachum thanked Lowell Light and Power staff for hanging the Pink Arrow banners on Main Street. The Pink Arrow Community Day is Tuesday, August 18th at Senior Neighbors/Gilda's Club. Pink Arrow game is September 11th. Perry also mentioned any City Council member that would like to attend an occasional conference, Lowell Light and Power would welcome their participation.

Mayor Hodges appreciated the offer for Lowell Light and Power to send a City Council member to learn more about the Electric Utility

business. It's a new budget year; more street repairs are in the works. Main Street BBQ will be opening in September.

Canfield echoed the Mutual Aid thank you to staff. Greg encouraged the LLP Board and Council members to attend the MMEA fall conference in October at the Crowne Plaza on 28th street in Grand Rapids. He thanked LEAD for their continued efforts to further control the odor at the bio-digester.

IX. CLOSED SESSION: It was MOVED BY BEACHUM, supported by Cadwallader, to go into closed session to discuss the General Manager's evaluation at 7:05 p.m.

Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

It was MOVED BY BEACHUM, supported by SCHRAUBEN, to come out of closed session at 8:32 p.m.

Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

It was MOVED BY BEACHUM, supported by SCHRAUBEN to increase the salary of the General Manager by 4% and increase his vehicle allowance by \$100/month effective July 1, 2015.

Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

IX. ADJOURNAMENT: It was MOVED BY BEACHUM, supported by CADWALLADER to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Carried

Chairman Canfield

Date