

The Owatonna Public Utilities Commission met in regular session in the Commission room. Present were Commissioners Stansberry, Schreiner, Emanuelson, Ihrke and Cosens. Also present were General Manager Shurts; City Administrator Busse; Director, Financial & Administrative Services Bruno; Director, Engineering, Electric & Meter Services Johnson; Director, Gas, Water & Power Production Green; Manager, HR, Safety, Risk & Loss Control Madson; Supervisor, Gas, Water, Buildings and Grounds Bendorf; and Executive/HR Assistant Schmoll.

Commissioner Emanuelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The Minutes from the regular meeting of March 23, 2010 were presented to the Commission. Commissioner Cosens moved to approve the Minutes as presented. Commissioner Schreiner seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee – Commissioner Schreiner reported the Personnel Committee did not meet, but the Commission, as a whole, met to present General Manager Shurts with his annual review. Mr. Schreiner thanked Mr. Shurts for his hard work and reported the review was very good.

Finance Committee – Commissioner Cosens reported the Finance Committee met, reviewed and approved Vouchers in the amount of \$6,245,656.25 and one work order addendum for extra work done on 26th St. NE.

City Administrator's Report

City Administrator Busse reported overall home values will drop about 5.2% throughout the city which will result in reduced property values.

Contributed Services

The Contributed Services report as of March 31, 2010 was presented to the Commission. The Commission signed the report.

General Manager/Staff Report

General Manager Shurts reported Supervisor, Gas, Water, Buildings & Grounds Bendorf has accepted the position of Director of Public Works for the City of Staples, Minnesota. Mr. Bendorf will be leaving OPU after 25 years of service and will be missed. Mr. Shurts further reported Mr. Bendorf's position will be advertised both inside and outside the company at the same time. The Commission congratulated Mr. Bendorf and thanked him for his service to OPU.

General Manager Shurts reported the next Commission meeting will be longer due to the Auditors being present to discuss the 2009 audit, as well as a discussion regarding strategic planning.

Director, Gas, Water & Power Production Green reported on behalf of Manager, Energy Management & External Relations Warehime that the CSM system has seemed to turn the corner and things seem to be running more smoothly.

Supervisor, Gas, Water, Buildings & Grounds Bendorf reported an unbudgeted work order may be coming to the next Commission meeting for repairs to truck #14 whose engine needs to be rebuilt.

Director, Engineering, Electric & Meter Services Johnson reported there has been a change of plans on the abandoning of well #1. The well will be rehabilitated instead of abandoned which will save approximately \$100,000. Mr. Johnson further reported the well head and casing will be raised above the flood plain so no contamination would take place in the event of a flood. The Commission agreed to move head with the rehabilitation of the well.

Manager, HR, Safety, Risk & Loss Control Madson reported Andrew Bateman has been hired as a replacement for retiring employee, Mike Vick. Mr. Bateman has a 2 year associates degree in electronics and has spent the last 8 years at the Kennedy Space Center working on their substations.

Commission Roundtable

Commissioner Ihrke – Nothing.

Commissioner Schreiner – Congratulations to Doug on his new position. Commissioner Emanuelson will be a tremendous loss for the Commission. He is very insightful and asks the right questions.

Commissioner Cosens – Congratulations to Doug. Commissioner Emanuelson, I appreciate the things I've learned from you.

Commissioner Stansberry – As emphasized in the General Manager's review, we truly appreciate everything General Manager Shurts does for the community and Owatonna Public Utilities. Good luck to Doug in his new position. Commissioner Emanuelson it has been truly a pleasure getting to know you as a Commissioner. You were a quality commissioner who was inquisitive, supportive and a team player with a great sense of humor.

Commissioner Emanuelson – Thank you for the kind words. Congratulations to Doug. In setting goals for the General Manager, it is important to not only the Commission, but to Steve as well, everything his staff does. As far as industrial business, has anyone heard how things are going with our larger customers. City Administrator Busse replied things are picking up on both the industrial and commercial side of things.

Commissioner Emanuelson continued by stating it has been a privilege to serve on this Commission and thanked Mayor Kuntz and past Mayor Connor for the opportunity to do so. Mr. Emanuelson stated things ran well when he came on the Commission but feels things are running even better now and feels OPU is an outstanding organization with excellent employees and a very interactive management team. Good luck to the rest of the Commissioners, and everyone at OPU.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Schreiner moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ihrke seconded the motion. All Commissioners voting Aye, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Schmoll
Executive/HR Assistant