

# Marquette Board of Light and Power 4-26-11 MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Board of Light and Power was called and held on April 26, 2011.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance the meeting was called to order.

**Present:**        **Edward M. Angeli**  
  
                      **John H. Prince**  
  
                      **Jerry Garceau**  
  
                      **Karen Kimar Johnson**  
  
                      **John L. Sonderegger**

**Absent:**         **None**

On a motion by J. Prince, seconded by K. Kimar Johnson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the April 12, 2011 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Following a discussion, it was moved by K. Kimar Johnson, seconded by J. Garceau, and unanimously carried to approve the Accounts Payable totaling \$593,323.96. J. Prince questioned a decrease in ash disposal costs? Executive Director Kirby Juntila responded the billing period may have impacted the total. Superintendent of Production John Reynolds said the amount of ash being disposed of has not declined. K. Kimar Johnson questioned a metering invoice? J. Reynolds said the meters are part of the metering upgrade at Unit No. 2. E. Angeli questioned a settlement payment? K. Juntila responded the settlement was for the cleanup of fugitive coal dust at a residence near the Plant due to a coal unloading incident during heavy winds in December. He added that the coal supplier has been advised that due to fugitive dust rules they will not be allowed to unload coal at the Plant during heavy winds.

## **1. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda.**

K. Juntila requested the addition of Agenda Items 2-A – Recommendation to Award Computer Network Switches, 2-B – Recommendation to Award the Purchase/implementation of Telephone System, 3-A – Recommendation to Award Design Engineering for Tourist Park Dam, and 3-B – Recommendation to Award Wetlands Construction Quality Control Inspection Program. It was moved by J. Prince , seconded by K. Kimar Johnson and unanimously carried to accept the amended agenda as presented.

## **2. Time for Citizen Comment.**

No comments were received from citizens.

# Marquette Board of Light and Power 4-26-11 MINUTES

## **2-A. Recommendation to Award Computer Network Switches.**

Director of Human Resources and Administration Paul Kitti provided a brief summary of the recent telephone disruptions experienced by the current telephone system including a three-day period where telephone communication between Wright St. and the Steam Plant was down and employees had to use cell phones to communicate between the two (2) locations. He added the phone system which has been in service eight (8) years is no longer supported by the manufacturer as they have deemed the system obsolete. The utility's vendor/maintenance provider Superior Eagle Communications has had difficulty obtaining parts to repair the system and have since notified the utility that they will no longer provide service after May 31. Due to the importance of having/maintaining a reliable telephone system for the utility's 24/7 operations, the need to purchase a new phone system is now a priority. E Angeli questioned if Board letters 2-A and 2-B are tied together? IT Supervisor Igor Kruhak responded in the affirmative. He said the purchase of the three (3) switches will improve the utility's computer networking infrastructure and are needed to implement a new phone system. J. Prince questioned features of the new system and if there is a monthly or annual service contract currently in place? I. Kruhak said the new phone system will provide reliability and enhance communication capabilities between the Plant and Wright Street including conferencing and a mobile office feature that allows employees to conduct daily business while out of the office. J. Reynolds responded the current maintenance contract is \$250 per month. J. Prince questioned the lifespan of the new phone system? I. Kruhak responded 8-10 years adding that the system can be added to/upgraded without replacing the entire system via the purchase of new software which can extend the service life of the system. J. Prince questioned maintenance fees for the new system and if local support will be provided? I. Kruhak responded the annual maintenance fee is free the first year and will be approximately \$4,500 annually thereafter. Lasco Inc. of Marquette will provide maintenance service for the telephone system. K. Kimar Johnson questioned if other systems were considered? I. Kruhak responded in the affirmative, but higher purchase costs and no local maintenance available resulted in the staff's recommendation.

On a motion by K. Kimar Johnson, seconded by J. Sonderegger and unanimously carried, the Board awarded the purchase of Computer Network Switches to Enterprise Systems Group of Green Bay, WI per their low bid meeting specifications totaling \$24,626.23. K. Juntala said the purchase of the new switches and new phone system will be Contingency Fund Expenditures.

## **2-B. Recommendation to Award the Purchase/Implementation of Telephone System.**

It was moved by K. Kimar Johnson, seconded by J. Sonderegger, and unanimously carried to award the purchase/implementation of a new Utility-wide Telephone System to Enterprise Systems Group of Green Bay, WI with local support through Lasco Inc. of Marquette at a not to exceed quote of \$52,840.05 per their quote meeting specifications. Funds will be drawn from the Contingency Fund. J. Prince questioned if the utility has a list of other businesses Lasco provides support for? I. Kruhak said he had attached a list of Lasco's customers to the Board

# Marquette Board of Light and Power 4-26-11 MINUTES

letter and that they provide maintenance service to many U.P. financial institutions and small to mid-sized businesses.

### **3. Recommendation to Approve Change Orders for Plant #4 Substation Controls Upgrade Project.**

On a motion by K. Kimar Johnson, seconded by J. Prince, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized change orders for Plant #4 Substation Controls Upgrade Project totaling \$56,765 with ATC to reimburse the utility for \$41,115 for a panel with relays and controls. E. Angeli asked for a summary of the project. J. Reynolds responded the controls in Plant #4 are being moved into a new building. The ATC relays are also being moved into a new control building. Due to ATC's requirement to keep its equipment completely separate from the utility's, they are paying for their own relays and controls as mentioned above. E. Angeli asked if the upgrade project is in conjunction with the power interconnection at the Presque Isle Power Plant? J. Reynolds responded in the affirmative. K. Kimar Johnson commented the actual cost of the change orders is only \$15,650 after ATC pays for its own equipment. J. Reynolds concurred adding that the utility will pay the change orders in total and then in turn will bill ATC for its share.

### **3-A. Recommendation to Award Design Engineering for Tourist Park Dam.**

It was moved by J. Prince, seconded by K. Kimar Johnson, and unanimously carried to award the Design Engineering for the Tourist Park Dam to AECOM totaling \$19,900. E. Angeli said they will be contacted during the project if there is a problem? Manager of Utility Compliance and Tourist Park Dam Project Manager responded in the affirmative. He said the total is an estimate by Mead & Hunt but that the amount paid could be less if their services aren't needed. He added their services will be requested if conditions outside the norm are found during the construction project. E. Booth said all work has to go through him on the project.

### **3-B. Recommendation to Award Wetlands Construction Quality Control Inspection Program.**

On a motion by J. Sonderegger, seconded by J. Garceau, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded the professional services to oversee and implement the Quality Control Inspection Program (QCIP) for the construction of the wetlands in the Tourist Park Basin to Mead & Hunt totaling \$13,000. E. Angeli asked what are the responsibilities of Mead & Hunt at Tourist Park? E. Booth responded they will serve as QCIP for the wetlands project at the Tourist Park Basin. E. Booth said Mead & Hunt will be on site to observe the application of the organic layer to ensure the required vegetation will grow properly to meet the 2017 vegetation establishment requirements. He said plans to work with the Lake Superior Watershed and Northern Michigan University for the vegetation plantings will help limit the cost.

# Marquette Board of Light and Power 4-26-11 MINUTES

## **4. Any Additional Business the Executive Director Wishes to Present.**

K. Juntala advised the Board: 1). He has heard from members of the community that they are following the utility's Board minutes and said for a small, municipal utility the MBLP has a lot of major projects going on including the reconstruction of the Tourist Park Dam following the May 2003 flood which destroyed the structure. He said work began this week restoring the wetland habitat at the site and that the new facility will be a benefit to the community when completed. Other projects include: plans to burn biomass fuel cubes in Unit No. 2 from Renewafuel's biomass plant at the former Sawyer Air Force Base. The process is being fine-tuned with anticipation of a delivery of the biomass fuel cubes May 9. Approximately 1,000 of the new digital Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) residential meters have been installed by utility personnel and the first substation was connected to the meters yesterday with two (2) additional substations to be connected this week enabling the new meters to be read via the utility's secured electric power lines. Following programming/testing of the AMI system, the mass deployment/installation of AMI meters will begin this summer. The No. 4 Plant Substation Upgrade Project is anticipated to be completed by September and will provide increased system reliability as will the purchase a new phone system. He said he appreciates the Board's support to keep the utility moving forward and commended the talented staff that is busy implementing the projects.

## **5. Time for Citizen Comments.**

No comments were received from citizens.

## **6. Any Additional Business the Board Members Wish to Present.**

J. Sonderegger said he appreciates the Board excusing his absence and that it is great to be back in Marquette to see snow again!

J. Garceau said he will be out of town for the May 10 meeting. He said he had received an e-mail from Lasco regarding the proposed new phone system and that he is glad it will be replaced with a new reliable phone system. He said he saw a MBLP truck working on a meter and commented it may have been the installation of a new AMI meter. K. Juntala commented that utility personnel have installed approximately 1,000 new AMI meters to allow for test readings prior to the mass deployment which will be conducted by a contractor as previously approved by the Board.

K. Kimar Johnson commented she watched the utility's AMI video and was impressed. She added she had also seen a brief news story on TV about the metering project. K. Juntala said the video was done by Superior Productions. He added that Superintendent of Distribution David Lynch headed up a task force on the implementation of AMI based on the successes/failures of others and complimented the group for its efforts.

# Marquette Board of Light and Power 4-26-11 MINUTES

J. Prince said he walked the grounds of the dam site and was pleased to see work going on there after all these years. He complimented staff for its diligence and hard work to see the project become a reality.

E. Angeli commented the purchase of a new phone system is a necessary part of business and that he would be interested in a demonstration of its capabilities when it is up and running. He said he received a phone call expressing thanks for the work beginning at the Tourist Park Dam site. He asked when the No. 4 Substation Upgrade Project is to be completed? J. Reynolds responded September 1.

## **7. Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at a 6:18 p.m.

---

John L. Sonderegger,  
Vice Chair/Secretary

***Minutes of Regular Board Meetings are available at City Hall, the Peter White Public Library, or the MBLP Main office at 2200 Wright St., Marquette, MI 49855. The minutes can also be viewed at [www.mblp.org](http://www.mblp.org).***