

Marquette Board of Light and Power 6-28-11 MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Board of Light and Power was called and held on June 28, 2011.

The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: **Edward M. Angeli**

 John H. Prince

 Jerry Garceau

 Karen Kimar Johnson

 John L. Sonderegger

Absent: **None**

On a motion by K. Kimar Johnson, seconded by J. Prince, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the June 14, 2011 regular meeting minutes as presented. J. Prince commented on continued negotiations with H2O regarding their return trip for additional cleaning following the annual maintenance outage of Unit No. 3. He said the MBLP should not be responsible for half the cost of their return visit that was required.

Following a discussion, it was moved by J. Prince, seconded by K. Kimar Johnson, and unanimously carried to approve the Accounts Payable totaling \$829,179.93. E. Angeli commented if the invoices from HD Supply are being audited for accuracy to ensure the Board is only paying for what it owes. Executive Director K. Juntila responded in the affirmative. He added that Superintendent of Distribution David Lynch is also the Purchasing Agent and he reconciles the orders.

1. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda.

There were no additions/corrections to the agenda.

2. Time for Citizen Comment.

No comments were received from citizens.

3. Review of March, 2011 Financial Statement.

Controller/Accountant Lon C. Laken reviewed the March, 2011 Financial Statement and answered questions of the Board. E. Angeli questioned if there are any budget variances to be concerned about? L. Laken responded in the negative.

Marquette Board of Light and Power 6-28-11 MINUTES

4. Recommendations for Payment:

- A. Purchase of AMI Meters.
- B. Purchase of Storage/File Server.

It was moved by K. Kimar Johnson, seconded by J. Prince and unanimously carried to authorize the purchase of AMI Meters from Power Line Supply per their low quote meeting specifications totaling \$106,757. K. Juntila said approximately 6,000 residential meters have been installed by the Board's contractor and MBLP meter personnel. By October, it is anticipated that commercial AMI meters will be installed with MBLP meter personnel assisting with the meter installations. He said the project is going well and credited retiring Meter Supervisor Bob Lewis for his extra effort on the project. J. Prince questioned if other companies are quoting the same meter? K. Juntila responded the quotes received are very competitive as the project is currently \$500,000 under budget due to the meter packages coming in under budget and the use of in-house meter personnel.

On a motion by J. Prince, seconded by K. Kimar Johnson and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the purchase of a Storage/File Server totaling \$60,361.19 from MNJ Technologies per their low quote meeting specifications. E. Angeli questioned what the utility was buying? IT Supervisor Igor Kruhak said hardware and software is being purchased to have a server at Wright Street and at the Plant in case of another server failure. I. Kruhak said this is the second time a server failure had occurred. He added MNJ Technologies provides standard support and that a replacement server can be obtained within 24 hours should it fail. I. Kruhak said data was not lost during the server failure, but that productivity was impacted for three (3) days during data restoration. K. Juntila said the new server purchase will meet new utility cyber security requirements of having servers in two (2) different locations. J. Sonderegger questioned the current computer system configuration due to the recent productivity loss? I. Kruhak responded the billing system has its own server, meter reading has its own server and the mail system has its own server. He added this new configuration was planned for next fiscal year but was moved up due to the recent server failure. E. Angeli questioned Internet storage vs. hard drive storage? I. Kruhak said due to additional security requirements for electric utilities that Internet storage is not a viable option at this time. He added that virtual computing systems will be available in the future and that as the technology evolves he will evaluate its use/benefit to the utility.

5. Any Additional Business the Executive Director Wishes to Present.

K. Juntila advised the Board: 1). Within two to three weeks billing from the new AMI meters will begin. Currently, meter reads are being received from approximately 5,400 of the new AMI meters. A test file has been run with some minor modifications being made; 2) Renewafuel has been producing quality biomass cubes at its new facility at the former Sawyer Air Base for the past week. They are currently running at a low capacity but are expected to begin ramping up for 100 percent production. He said that MBLP Operations/Maintenance Manager Steve Nelson will tour the facility tomorrow and if all continues to go well a mid-July delivery of the biomass fuel cubes is anticipated at the Shiras Steam Plant; 3) A recent newspaper article regarding progress at the Tourist Park Dam Reconstruction Project was well received. He added crews

Marquette Board of Light and Power 6-28-11 MINUTES

began the excavation of the new spillway channel. Due to the channel being filled with boulders, an expert from the Independent Board of Consultants and dam designer AECOM will visit the site and will discuss possible design modifications with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and; 4) the new Control Building for the No. 4 Plant Control Upgrade Project has been installed to be followed by control panel installation in the near term. The project is expected to be completed by mid-August.

6. Time for Citizen Comments.

No comments were received by citizens.

7. Any Additional Business the Board Members Wish to Present.

J. Sonderegger commented on graffiti on utility parking area signs near Forestville. K. Juntila responded he would have the graffiti removed. J. Sonderegger asked if there are any wind generators on the MBLP's electric system? K. Juntila responded 41 Lumber had installed a windmill, but they are not selling excess power to the utility. J. Sonderegger commented a constituent has installed a wind turbine and has had it inspected, but is wondering who needs to be notified at the utility? K. Juntila responded he should call Superintendent of Distribution David Lynch.

K. Kimar Johnson questioned if further discussions regarding the utility doing City water bills have been conducted in conjunction with the AMI Project? K. Juntila responded in the negative. He said the AMI water meters will not be installed until next spring and that although the initial discussion was positive it will be several years before it may be possible.

E. Angeli said he attended a boot camp on serving on a public board/committee with the City Attorney and other elected officials by invitation of the Marquette City Manager. He said it was a positive experience about the responsibilities of serving on a public board/committee. He recommended that if given the opportunity, other Board members should attend. He wished everyone a safe Fourth of July.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 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 .