

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Board of Light and Power was called and held on November 10, 2009.

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

City Clerk David Bleau gave the oath of office to Karen Kimar Johnson and John Prince. An election for the Board Chair and Vice Chair/Secretary was conducted by D. Bleau. Ed Angeli was elected chair on the first ballot. John Sonderegger was elected Vice Chair/Secretary on the first ballot.

Present: Karen Kimar Johnson
Kenneth C. Wanberg
Edward M. Angeli
John L. Sonderegger
John H. Prince

Absent: None

On a motion by J. Sonderegger, seconded by K. Wanberg, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the October 27, 2009 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Following a discussion it was moved by K. Wanberg, seconded by J. Prince and unanimously carried to approve the Accounts Payable totaling \$471,927.31

1. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda.

Executive Director Kirby Juntala requested the addition of Agenda Item 4-A – Recommendation for Payment of Unit No. 3 Boiler Work. It was moved by K. Wanberg, seconded by J. Sonderegger, and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as amended.

2. Time for Citizen Comments.

Justin Edge of 1900 Bluff St. questioned the Board's decision to replace the Tourist Park Dam citing the cost of rebuilding the dam and annual maintenance costs vs. the small amount of generation capacity it provides. He said research indicates that cold fisheries provide economic value to communities and that water quality can be reduced by dams. He suggested the utility provide compact fluorescent light bulbs to its customers to save energy.

Ginger Woodrahowski of 1900 Van Evera said she was opposed to the Tourist Park Dam reconstruction for many of the reasons expressed by J. Edge. She added she is an Environmental Science student at NMU and a majority of her biology classes have been conducted along the Dead River which is a great place to study an ecological system that has been recovering since the flood.

Zak Bartol of 518 Summit St., also an Environmental Science major at NMU said he is also opposed to the rebuilding of the dam as previously voiced. He added the trail system in the basin is well used and will be lost if the dam is restored.

Ron Sundell of 130 W. Hewitt Ave. and a professor at NMU said he has appeared before the Board on previous occasions and was pleased when the Board voted not to rebuild the dam a few years ago. He commented on the Board's later decision to proceed with reconstruction of the dam after the City Commission expressed its desire to have Tourist Park Lake restored and would waive the Board's payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) to ensure dam reconstruction. He said the restoration does not make economic or environmental sense. He added small dams are being removed across the country and that area residents are enjoying kayaking, fishing and walking their dogs in the basin. He said it is not too late to rethink the reconstruction and urged the Board to be progressive not regressive.

3. Marquette County Historical Society Presentation RE: Streetcar Restoration.

Kay Hiebel, Director of the Marquette County Historical Society, updated the Board on its project to restore an electric street car that operated in the City during the late 1800s. Since the electric street car was operated by electricity supplied by the utility, K. Hiebel told the Board a natural partnership exists based on the past. She said Marquette County has offered a building at Sawyer Air Force Base for the restoration work to be done over a 5-10 year period and the street car was recently moved to the location. She said once the restoration is completed the street car will be located at the museum in a covered/protected space that will allow residents to go through the street car. Marquette students are currently researching the history of the street cars and are obtaining interviews with residents who rode on the street cars. She said the museum is looking for a long-term commitment from the Board and is asking financial support of \$3,000 per year for five (5) years. She said a financial commitment from the Board for the street car restoration would be helpful for obtaining future grant funding. E. Angeli thanked K. Hiebel for the presentation and said the Board would discuss the funding request.

4. Recommendation for Payment of Unit No. 3 Coal Mill Exhauster Blades.

It was moved by K. Wanberg, seconded by J. Prince, and unanimously carried to authorize payment to Marquette Machining & Fabricating totaling \$6,620 for its fabrication and supply of three sets of Unit No. 3 Coal Mill Exhauster Blades.

4-A. Recommendation for Payment of Unit No. 3 Boiler Maintenance.

It was moved by K. Wanberg, seconded by K. Kimar Johnson and unanimously carried to authorize payment totaling \$46,880.96 to D.K. Services, Inc. for its boiler work during Unit No. 3's maintenance shut down. K. Wanberg said he appreciated the cost break down of the work provided. E. Angeli questioned how the unit is running? J. Reynolds said following the re-leveling of the fan and motor the unit is running well. He added a recent hydrogen leak necessitated shutting the unit down while the leak was repaired.

5. **Recommendation to Award Purchase of Unit No. 3 Turbine-Generator Vibration Monitoring System.**

On a motion by J. Prince, seconded by K. Wanberg and unanimously carried, the Board awarded the purchase of an upgrade to Unit No. 3's Turbine-Generator Vibration Monitoring System to GE Energy totaling \$88,830. E. Angeli questioned the budget year for the purchase. K. Juntala responded the Board's budget is from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. He added a six-month lead time to obtain the equipment is necessary.

6. **Any Additional Business the Executive Director Wishes to Present.**

K. Juntala presented no additional business.

7. **Time for Citizen Comments.**

Lori Judge of 1900 VanEvra said she is against restoring the Tourist Park Dam and asked the Board to reconsider its decision.

8. **Any Additional Business the Board Members Wish to Present.**

K. Wanberg congratulated the new Board members and the new Chair and Vice Chair.

J. Sonderegger concurred and welcomed the new Board members.

J. Prince said he thanked all those who voted for him and that he looks forward to serving on the Board.

K. Kimar Johnson reiterated the comments of J. Prince.

E. Angeli told the new Board members they will enjoy serving on the Board and that after a year he is still learning about the utility and its operations. He thanked the Board for their support of him serving as Chair. A roll call vote was taken to go into closed session to discuss Contract Negotiations.

9. **Closed Session – Contract Negotiations.**

The Board entered into closed session at 6:07 p.m to discuss Contract Negotiations. At 6:43 p.m. following a unanimous roll call vote, the Board returned to Regular Session.

10. **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

John L. Sonderegger,
Vice Chair/Secretary

Minutes of Regular Board Meetings can be viewed 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.