

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
December 12, 2023
Board Room-303 S. Anthony Street, Kennett, MO 63857

Members Present:

John Robertson
Tony Parr
Towny Sparks
Randy Baker

Others Present:

Jamie Chitester, CEO
Crystal Dennis, CFO
Jill Rickman, CHRO
Lisa Dry, Councilwoman
Scott Hunter, Citizen

Jake Crafton, Mayor
Mark Bryant, Councilman
Dennis Pelts, Councilman
Randy Carter, Councilman

Mr. Robertson called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. Mr. Parr made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Baker seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The November 14, 2023 meeting minutes were presented. Mr. Baker made a motion to approve all minutes as presented. Mr. Sparks seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The October 2023 preliminary financials were presented. No action was required.

The November 2023 expenditures were presented. Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve the expenditures as presented. Mr. Parr seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Chief Operating Officer & Chief Executive Officer Updates: Mr. Chitester provided the COO report.

Electric-A grant has been submitted for assistance with reconductoring for the solar farm connection. Crews have been focusing on changing out rotten poles and winter tree clearance. We had a lineman complete his apprenticeship and have two linemen entering their final year. A new bucket truck is scheduled to be delivered soon. Our meter lineman has found several issues during the CT and PT meter testing and those are being corrected.

Gas-We have switched over to take our supply from Texas Eastern. Crews are working on leak repairs that require street breaks. They are also trying to find a pressure problem on the North Bypass. The gas purchase contract is expiring in April 2024 and Mr. Chitester is working on renewal. A meter problem was discovered and corrected with the Delta Peanut gas meter.

Frey Farms-Mediation is set for January 11th.

Water/Sewer-The sewer main repair and water main relocation on First Street is complete. This was a joint project with the Kennett Street Department and Missouri Department of Transportation. Over 3,000 feet of new pipe has been laid along Commercial Street. The project only has about 1,000 feet left to be laid. Additional work and testing will have to be done once the pipe lay out is complete. The Mayor noted that the Water/Sewer crews are greatly appreciated for their work for the citizens of Kennett.

Water/Wastewater Treatment-Wells 3 and 8 are now abandoned. A grant was received for \$14,000 to help pay for the abandonment. Engineers were able to get a water sample from the aquifer and we are awaiting the results. Staff submitted an \$8,000 drinking water grant. The ammonia levels are increasing at the lagoon and crews are adding mag ox to adjust for the increase. We were notified that by 2033 new processes to address phosphorous in wastewater must be implemented. Engineers are confident that our MBBR treatment equipment will be able to treat for phosphorous, but will require additions that could be expensive.

Power Plant-Engine 9 did not start during a maintenance run from what appears to be control system issues. Crews are working to diagnose and repair the issue. The online auction for engine parts from the Macon, MO Power Plant are now available and crews are bidding on what is needed by our Plant. Crews have been focusing on testing required by our insurance pool. Power prices are still low due to warmer temperatures. Our crew and plant are available to generate when called upon.

IT-New backup servers have been installed and will require an internet outage to be operational. The outage will be planned for early morning hours to provide the least disruption. Crews also installed new equipment at City Hall.

Office-The NISC agreement is ready to be signed.

Trash-Mr. Chitester will be meeting with a Sales Representative and Consultant on December 20th.

Pemiscot-Dunklin Electric Cooperative Request-PDEC is purchasing a building in Kennett and has requested that they be allowed to provide electric and internet service to the building. It would be a loss of around \$30,000 per year. Mr. Chitester has discussed the issue with the City Attorney, who reports no issues with allowing this to occur. PDEC is willing to sign an agreement stating that they will only serve that building within the City limits. Mr. Sparks made a motion to allow Mr. Chitester to negotiate an agreement with Pemiscot-Dunklin Electric Cooperative to allow PDEC to provide electric and fiber internet services to the building they purchase inside the city limits of Kennett. Mr. Baker seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Miscellaneous general:

The next meeting will be January 9, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.

Closed session adjournment:

A Closed Session meeting was held, pursuant to the Sunshine Law, RSMO 1998, Section 610.021, (3) hiring, firing, disciplining, or promoting of particular employees. Mr. Baker made a motion to enter closed session. Mr. Sparks seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sparks seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Attest:

Randy Baker

Secretary