

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
July 25, 2023
Board Room-303 S. Anthony Street, Kennett, MO 63857

Members Present:

John Robertson
Randy Baker
Towny Sparks
Tony Parr

Others Present:

Jamie Chitester, CEO
Crystal Dennis, CFO
Marty Johnson, COO
Jill Rickman, CHRO
Cathy Brown, Safety Dir.

Lisa Dry, Councilwoman
Dennis Pelts, Councilman
James Waynick, Councilman
Scott Hunter, Citizen

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

The July 11, 2023 open and closed 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 June 2023 expenditures were presented. Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the expenditures as presented. Mr. Sparks seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The updated Employee Handbook was presented for approval. Mr. Parr made a motion to approve the updated Employee Handbook as presented. Mr. Baker seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The Second Quarter Department Summary report was provided. No action was required.

Chief Operating Officer Updates:

Electric-There are three Lineman retiring in 2023. Two of the positions will be replaced internally. One person was hired for the third position and he began work this week.

Gas-The PHMSA grant will be submitted this week. The Gas Crew continues to work on leaks found during the leak survey. All of the Class 1 and 2 leaks have been repaired.

Power and Gas Pricing-Mr. Johnson shared current prices for power and natural gas. A resource advisory has been issued by SPP for July 26. The Power Plant will be generating over the next few weeks to burn gas in storage and to combat higher power prices.

IT-The IT leaders will meet with the City leaders and their current IT service provider tonight to plan the transition to CLGW providing IT services for the City. Mr. Chitester noted that CLGW is able to provide the City the services at a much cheaper rate due to the fact that we are not seeking to make a profit and are only trying to save the City money. Mr. Johnson has asked the CLGW IT Director to include front line staff that uses City equipment to be involved in the transition process. Mr. Pelts, Councilman and Police Committee member, offers to assist in the process in any way he can.

Chief Executive Officer Updates:

Solar-We have solicited quotes from two other companies for solar projects. Mr. Chitester asked permission to purchase 19.5 acres owned by First Church. Mr. Parr asked if this property will just sit vacant like the previous property that was purchased for solar generation, and why we weren't using property we already own. Mr. Chitester stated that this property would produce similar generation output on a smaller plot because the solar panels would be East-West facing and it would be visible to customers and travelers. The previous property that was purchased for solar generation has been asked to be reserved for a potential economic development project by City and County Officials. Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the purchase of 19.5 acres owned by First Church. Mr. Sparks seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Wells-The well projects budget line item was not carried over for the new budget. Mr. Chitester asks to amend the budget with \$1 million added for well projects. Mr. Baker made a motion to amend the budget as requested. Mr. Sparks seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Water/Water Treatment-We are still waiting on DNR approval of the line extensions plans. Water Treatment Plant automation is progressing.

Safety-Mr. Chitester introduced Cathy Brown, Safety Director/Utility Nurse/Facility Manager, to the Board and others present. At the recent MIRMA annual conference, Ms. Brown was able to accept the plaque for achieving a perfect score on the Loss Control Evaluation.

CD-Mr. Chitester noted that he would like to move more money into a CD, so that we will have a CD expiring every six months. Bids will be solicited and presented to the Board for approval.

Billing Software-Staff have chosen NISC as the new billing software provider and will be moving forward with contract negotiations.

Frey Farms-No update.

Miscellaneous general:

The next meeting will be held **Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 11:30 am.**

Adjournment:

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

Attest:

Randy Baker

Secretary