

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
January 9, 2024  
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  
Marty Johnson, COO

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

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

Officer Elections: The floor was opened for nominations. Mr. Baker nominated Mr. Robertson for President, Mr. Sparks for Vice-President, and himself for Secretary. No additional nominations were presented. Mr. Baker made a motion to accept and close nominations and approve the presented slate of officers. Mr. Parr seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The December 12, 2023 meeting minutes were presented. Mr. Baker made a motion to approve all minutes as presented. Mr. Parr seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

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

The December 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 FY23 financial audit was presented. Mr. Parr made a motion to approve the FY23 audit as presented. Mr. Sparks seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2024 Rate Adjustment:

Mr. Chitester presented the proposed rate adjustments for 2024 and the addition of a water capital improvement fee. The rate adjustments will begin with bills due April 14, 2024, readings from February 15-March 14, 2024. See attached rate sheet for changes. Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve the water capital improvement fee. Mr. Parr seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve the water rate increase for 2024. Mr. Parr seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mr. Parr made a motion to approve the electric rate increase for 2024. Mr. Baker seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mr. Parr made a motion to approve the natural gas rate increase for 2024. Mr. Baker seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Chief Operating Officer:

Grants-The solar and PHMSA grants have been assigned tracking numbers by the grant review committees.

Electric-The outage that occurred yesterday was due to a lightning strike. Power was restored quickly and safely. The bucket truck that has been ordered since 2021 was supposed to be delivered this week. We received a phone call stating that it will be delayed another 30 weeks due to the wrong pump being installed.

Power Plant-Shared the power and gas prices. The Next Era power hedge pricing agreement has elapsed. A weather alert has been issued for power and gas pricing for January 14-26, 2024. The Power Plant is prepared to generate as needed.

Water/Sewer-The crews have 400 feet of pipe left to lay on the new line on Commercial Street. Once the pipe is in the ground additional work for connection and testing must be done before it will be in use.

IT-A new fiber core switch has been installed and will be operational soon.

Chief Executive Officer:

Employees-The performance increases budgeted have been issued. Mr. Chitester thanked the Board on behalf of the employees. The additional check that is budgeted for employees will now be performance-based. The criteria will be the same as the Bonus Day policy eligibility criteria.

Solar-The grant application has been submitted and our first payment has been made.

Pemiscot-Dunklin-The agreement is being completed by Terry McVey, City Attorney, and should be ready to be signed at the next meeting.

Water Treatment-The water test results from the aquifer came back good. We are now ready to start drilling to make sure that we can get the flow needed to place a new Water Treatment Facility on the chosen land.

Frey Farms-Mediation is this Thursday in Cape.

Trash-Staff will meet with the Transfer Station engineer on Friday. We have been informed that the permitting process can take up to a year to complete. The City is working on paving the road that leads to the Transfer Station to assist us. The residential sanitation waste service agreement has been signed by the City and will be presented to the Board at the next meeting for approval and signature.

Miscellaneous general:

The next meeting will be January 23, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Robertson asks for management to review the residential lawn sprinkling sewer charges and report at the next meeting.

Mr. Sparks asked for a backflow prevention device test report at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

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

Attest:

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Randy Baker

Secretary