

Marquette Board of Light and Power 9-12-17 MINUTES

2200 Wright St., Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-0311

A regular meeting of the Board of Light and Power was called and held on September 12, 2017 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Present: Tom Tourville, Chair
David Puskala, Vice Chair/Secretary
Jerry Irby
Robert Niemi
David Carlson

Absent: None

J. Irby made a motion to accept the agenda, as presented. Motion was supported by D. Puskala and unanimously approved by the Board.

1. **Approval of the August 29, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

D. Puskala made a motion to accept August 29, 2017 regular meeting minutes, as presented. R. Niemi supported the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved by Board.

2. **Approval of Bills Payable:**

J. Irby made a motion to approve the Bills Payable, as presented, totaling \$595,776.43 with support given by R. Niemi. After discussion and questions were answered, Board unanimously approved the bills payable.

3. **Public Comments:**

No public comments at this time.

4. **Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget:**

T. Tourville opened the Public Hearing and asked for public comment. No public comments were made so T. Tourville closed the Public Hearing. J. Irby made a motion to approve and adopt the Budget as presented. D. Puskala supported motion. Executive Director Tom Carpenter stated that it was very challenging this year with the new plant being built and the solar garden being installed. Because of that, staff relied on the studies completed by Burns and MacDonnell and Utility Financial Solutions to structure the budget. Controller, Helen LaFayette commented that staff used a lot of different sources to get the projections for this year's budget. Board asked questions regarding the Shiras Steam Plant, ash pond, bond payments, pension and health care expenses. Because there was talk regarding the future of Shiras Steam Plant, R. Niemi suggested that the Board schedule a work session very soon. After discussion the Board approved and adopted the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget as presented.

5. **Approval of Change Orders on General Work Contract:**

R. Niemi made a motion to approve the four change orders, PCI No 161, 162, 163 and 164, totaling \$151,655.84. D. Puskala supported the motion. T. Carpenter informed the Board that

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PCI numbers 163 and 164 totaling \$26,718.43 will be back charged to Wärtsilä due to engine tuning issues related to natural gas starting. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved payment of the four change orders on the GWC.

6. **Public Comments:**

Jorma Lankinen 8 Marquette Drive thanked the MBLP for sending a crew of linemen to help people in the state of Florida due to Hurricane Irma. He also commented on the UFS Study presented by Dawn Lund at the last meeting who did a fabulous job. He spoke of the possible cost savings of closing Shiras Steam Plant and for the Board to not continue throwing money after bad.

Jennifer Hill 503 Craig St. asked for a copy of the FY 2017-18 Budget and requested that the MBLP put it on their website. Board directed Executive Assistant Noreen Collins to put the Budget on the utility's website for the public to view.

7. **Any Additional Business the Acting Executive Director Wishes to Present:**

T. Carpenter informed the Board that the MBLP sent four linemen with two trucks to Florida on Sunday. This will be a part of our mutual aid agreement.

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

D. Carlson stated that if Shiras Steam Plant were to close, what would be the decommissioning costs and would we need additional generation to replace it. T. Carpenter answered that that MEC will be able to cover 100 percent of our load for about 95 percent of the year. T. Carpenter also stated that the power load has been declining every year since 2007.

R Niemi asked what the actual peak load was in 2007 in T. Carpenter responded it was 68 megawatts.

D Puskala said now that we have sufficient generation, we will need to focus on the distribution part of the utility in future planning. D. Puskala stated that UPPCo has sent ten workers to Florida to help with the hurricane damage and that the State of Michigan has sent over 600 workers to the state.

J. Irby stated that the Board received some really good information from Burns and MacDonnell and Utility Financial Solutions Studies and all that has gone into our budget. He also asked for an update on the Solar Garden. T. Carpenter responded by saying that the Solar Garden should be on line within a week. J. Irby also stated that he is looking forward to receiving a decal for his car, supporting the solar project.

T. Tourville informed the Board Members and staff that he spoke at the City Commission Meeting last night. It was suggested that a work session be set up between the MBLP Board and the Commissioners in order to share information on the two recent studies completed, the Marquette Energy Center and the Solar Community Garden. He believes sharing of this information will be very beneficial for both groups.

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9. **Adjournment:**
The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.



David Puskala
Vice Chair/Secretary