

# CWEP

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board met in regular session May 14th, 2026, 3:00 p.m. at the CWEP Office, 627 W. Centennial, Carthage, MO.

### Board:

Brian Schmidt -Vice President  
 Ron Ross- Member\*  
 Darren Collier - President  
 Jack Perkins - Liaison

Sid Teel - Secretary  
 Tom Garrison – Member  
 Mark Gier – Member

### Staff:

Chuck Bryant-General Manager  
 Cassandra Ludwig-General Counsel  
 Jason Peterson-Director of IT & Broadband  
 Megan Kirby- Executive Assistant

Jason Choate-Director of Water Services  
 Kelli Nugent/CFO  
 Kevin Emery-Director of Power Services  
 Stephanie Howard-Economic Development Manager

\* Present via videoconference

Others present: Accountant Mandy Bates; Accountant Ben Schwarting; Accountant Jamie Jadwin; Mayor Bren Flanigan

President Collier called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None.

**CITIZENS PARTICIPATION PERIOD:** None.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion by Gier and seconded by Garrison to approve the minutes as presented of the regular meeting of April 9th, 2026, passed unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:**

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Teel to approve disbursements for April in the amount of \$5,840,518.82, passed unanimously.

### **REPORT OF OPERATIONS:**

Dir. of IT Services Peterson explained that revenues and expenses were fairly in line with budget for both March and April. He noted the Ozark Go connection is now live and will reflect a slight increase in expenses as a result. He also discussed obsolete inventory which was written

off in March. He explained the fiber team completed 76 more installs, but that the fiber queue is down to 20, so they will be shifting some focus to service expansion.

Dir. of Water Services Choate explained that for March, water and wastewater sales were both ahead of budget. Water expenses were positive overall, but the distribution utilities were high due to the south tower being out of service for interior painting, forcing water to be pumped from the pumphouse to serve the south district. Change in net position for both departments was positive. For April, Choate noted that water sales were in line with budget while wastewater sales were higher than budget, mostly due to industrial users. Wastewater ended the month with higher expenses than budgeted because of a variety of factors, including pump replacement, replacement of a pH sensor at the levee lift station, extra rainfall causing utilities to be over budget, higher sludge hauling, and the replacement of a backflow device at the plant. Both water and wastewater ended the month with a positive variance in net position.

Dir. of Power Services Emery noted the electric department had a negative change in net position for March, but that it was ahead of budget. In March, purchased power expenses were over budget due to Dogwood expenses being higher than expected for the month. He also noted that transmission expenses were higher than expected from the addition of some People's Electric transmission costs being added to the SWPA transmission pricing zone. For April, net income was over budget, with revenues coming in higher than budget and purchased power energy expenses under budget. Transmission expenses were again higher than expected. He noted CWEP has started the work with Black & Veatch for the Integrated Resource Plan.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

CFO Nugent presented the March financials to the Board, noting March consolidated financial statements resulted in a change in net position of approximately (\$40,600) compared to a budget of (\$220,000). All departments showed higher than budgeted revenues and most expenses were in line with budget.

CFO Nugent presented April's financials to the Board, noting that the month resulted in a positive change in net position of approximately \$561,600 while the budgeted change in net position was approximately (\$48,000). Revenues for all departments either exceeded or were in line with budget. Operating expenses were under budget for all departments except Wastewater.

A motion by Gier and seconded by Garrison to approve the March and April 2026 financials passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Consideration of Resolution 2026.05: A Resolution recommending a loan to Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church d/b/a Little Lambs Childcare from the Revolving Loan Fund**

GM Bryant presented to the Board Resolution 2026.05: A resolution recommending a loan to Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church d/b/a Little Lambs Childcare from the Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$60,000. He noted the purpose of this loan is to assist with the renovation and repurposing of underutilized space within the church facility to expand the licensed capacity of Little Lambs Childcare from 49 children to 83 children.

He reminded the Board that the revolving loan fund was created in 2023 via a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. He noted the CWEP Loan Committee reviewed the proposed project, financial information, and anticipated community impact, and the committee believes this expansion represents a sound investment in local workforce support and economic development and will provide meaningful benefits to local families while supporting continued workforce development and economic stability. He also noted that this revolving loan fund is only available to CWEP because of the size of the community (rural) and because CWEP has its own Board, as larger utilities and utilities without their own governing bodies do not qualify to receive the grants to create these revolving loan funds.

A motion by Garrison and seconded by Schmidt to approve Resolution 2026.05: a resolution recommending a loan to Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church d/b/a Little Lambs Childcare from the Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$60,000, passed unanimously.

**2. Consideration of Power Plant & Plant Sub Relay Upgrade**

General Manager Bryant discussed the Power Plant & Plant Sub Relay Upgrade Project. Dir. of Power Services Emery noted the project will upgrade the relays on the generators and plant ties, switching to the newer style of relays which will allow for more detailed information gathering and troubleshooting, while increasing reliability and reducing the testing burden on staff.

Proposals were received from B&L Electric. in the amount of \$176,032.31 and BBC Electrical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$179,522.28. After a thorough assessment, B&L Electric Inc. met all specifications and requirements, and offered the lowest project cost. GM Bryant noted both contractors have been good partners on previous projects.

A motion by Teel and seconded by Gier to award this project to B&L Electric Inc. in the amount of \$176,032.31, passed unanimously.

### **3. Consideration of Bids for Landscaping Project**

General Manager Bryant reported proposals were requested for landscaping services at CWEP facilities located at 627 W. Centennial and 300 S. River Street. The scope of work includes landscape design, removal and disposal of existing landscaping, installation of new landscaping, and excavation as needed. The project is intended to develop an organized, low-maintenance design and will include annual maintenance services. Proposed costs include all materials, plants, labor, and associated services.

Proposals were received from Scott's Landscape and Excavation in the amount of \$66,470.00, Zipper Lawn Care for \$101,600.00, and Inside-Out Landscaping for \$122,228.00.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Teel to award this project to Scott's Landscape and Excavation as the lowest proposal in the amount of \$66,470.00, passed unanimously.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Utility Accountant Jadwin discussed the progress of the new inventory scanning project, noting that the project is live and training is underway. She noted the benefits of the project include time savings, availability to see inventory quantities in real-time, and reduced paperwork. She thanked Jim Willis for all the work he put into making the project successful, as well as all the employees for embracing the new system and being willing to change their processes.

CFO Nugent highlighted a recent award given to Kelli Stinebrook, Purchasing Agent, at the recent Missouri Association of Public Purchasing conference. Stinebrook received the Linda D. Windsor Distinguished Service Award from the association, and CFO Nugent explained that the award honors a member with outstanding dedication, customer service, professional excellence, and volunteerism. CFO Nugent thanked Stinebrook for her hard work and dedication, noting the award is extremely well deserved.

General Counsel & Dir. of Customer Relations Ludwig noted the Tower 2 Tower run was the biggest one to date, with over 130 participants. The event raised over \$4,200 for the CWEP C.A.R.E.S. fund. She also invited the Board members to the company picnic on June 6.

Dir. of Water Services Choate told the Board that CWEP received the final Stockton lake water allocation contract with the Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission and that the contract has been sent to the mayor for his approval. He noted the Missouri Department of Natural Resources committed to paying for half of the water allocation, which will be a huge savings to the participating cities.

Dir. of IT & Broadband Services Peterson noted that nobody clicked on any of the cyber security test emails during April. He also stated the system administrators are busy working on patching some newly discovered software vulnerabilities.

Economic Dev. Manager Howard noted she and the CEDC are working on four potential projects.

Dir. of Power Services Emery discussed recent testing done at the power plant, both on the continuous monitoring systems on the catalytic converters, and on the transformers which connect the power plant to the grid. He noted all tests were successful.

GM Bryant explained to the board some recent water allocation requests at Whitney Lake and Beaver Lake, which will likely negatively impact the rates for the federal hydropower customers, including CWEP, because of reduced availability for hydropower generation. He noted the Customer Academy concluded last week and thanked everyone who attended those sessions so far, adding that Councilwoman Beth Kang participated in this last session. GM Bryant gave an update on construction work at the CWEP Centennial complex, and congratulated board members Collier and Gier for their reappointments to the board.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Various board members asked questions pertaining to the water reallocation requests. Council liaison Perkins inquired about the economic development park projects. Mayor Flanigan thanked the utility for the work put into helping city staff diagnose problems with municipal pool, noting electric, water, and tech crews have all been heavily involved. President Collier thanked the mayor for his recent reappointment, and he thanked all staff for the work done on the budget, noting the meeting with the council budget committee the previous evening went well.

At 4:35 p.m. a motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Garrison to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned.

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President – Darren Collier

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Secretary – Sid Teel