

CWEP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board met in regular session January 15, 2026, 3:00 p.m. at the CWEP Office, 627 W. Centennial, Carthage, MO.

Board:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Schmidt -Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sid Teel - Secretary |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Ross- Member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Garrison – Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darren Collier - President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Gier – Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Perkins - Liaison | |

Staff:

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Bryant-General Manager | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Choate-Director of Water Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cassandra Ludwig-General Counsel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelli Nugent/CFO |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Peterson-Director of IT & Broadband | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Emery-Director of Power Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Kirby- Executive Assistant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Howard-Economic Development Manager |

Others present: Mayor Bren Flanigan; City Councilmember Jana Schramm; City Councilmember Beth Kang; Accountant Mandy Bates; Accountant Ben Schwarting; Accountant Jamie Jadwin; Facility and Fleet Manager Harlan Block

President Collier called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION PERIOD: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Ross and seconded by Garrison to approve the minutes as presented of the regular meeting of December 18th, 2025, passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:

A motion by Gier and seconded by Teel to approve disbursements for December in the amount of \$5,293,073.05 , passed unanimously.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS:

Director of Power Services Emery reported operating expenses were over budget due to purchase power energy and demand expenses being higher than expected. He noted purchase power energy expenses are over budget in December due to Plum Point and Dogwood being down for maintenance. Energy expenses are over budget for the year due to reduced Plum

Point and Dogwood revenues which cause overall expenses to be higher. He noted Purchase Power demand expenses were over budget during December and for the year due to Dogwood's fixed expenses being higher than we expected from their fall maintenance and transmission expenses being higher than expected due to People's electric. Emery reported Sikeston and Dogwood are back online but have been running at reduced loads. Plum Point is still offline. He reported CWEP purchased 52,641 gallons of diesel fuel at \$2.12/gallon bringing the total gallons in storage to 286,500 gallons with a goal of at least 500,000 gallons.

Director of IT & Broadband Services Peterson reported operating revenues for the month fell below budget expectations but have exceeded the budget year to date. He noted operating expenses were under budget for the month and year to date. He noted the SentinelOne antivirus and Red Canary project have been deployed to provide advanced threat detection, alerting and response capabilities.

Director of Water Services Choate reported operating expenses were significantly below budget for the month and year to date due to the first payment for Stockton Lake allocation likely not happening until 2027. He gave an update on where the Stockton Lake allocation stands on finalizing contracts with DNR and the Army Corp of Engineers. He noted the relocation of the water main for the YMCA pavilion on the east side of their building was completed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

CFO Nugent presented the December financials to the Board. She reported combined operating revenues exceeded budget and combined operating expenses exceeded budget for the month and year to date.

A motion by Gier and seconded by Teel to approve the December 2026 financials passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of Resolution 2026.01: Retirement Resolution for Harlan Block

General Manager Bryant recognized the retirement of Facility and Fleet Manager, Harlan Block, reading a resolution in his honor. GM Bryant thanked Harlan for his nearly 15 years of faithful service and wished him all the best going forward.

A motion by Garrison and seconded by Ross to approve the retirement resolution for Harlan Block, passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of revisions to CWEP's Salary Administration Guidelines policy to add the position of "Utility Services Manager" and move the Engineering/GIS job family to the Customer Service Department

General Manager Bryant reported a revision to CWEP's salary Administration guidelines policy to add the position of "Utility Services Manager" and move the Engineering/GIS job family to the Customer Relations Department. He noted this is the first change needed since implementing the compensation study due to some upcoming retirements. General Counsel and Customer Relations Manager Ludwig also noted a small change to adjust the name reference of the "Customer Service" department to the "Customer Relations" Department.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Teel to change the name reference of the "Customer Service" department to the "Customer Relations" department, add position of "Utility Service Manager" and move the Engineering/GIS job family to the Customer Relations department, passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of bids for Lift Station and Manhole Rehabilitation

General Manager Bryant reported a request for approval to proceed with awarding a contract to Advanced Rehabilitation Technology for the rehabilitation and lining of approximately 1,254.1 vertical feet of manholes and the lining of CWEP's Lake View Lift Station.

He noted the cost for this project is estimated at \$449,857.74. These rehabilitation services are available under the Purchasing Cooperative of America (PCA) cooperative contract, which has been formally and competitively bid and is widely utilized by other public utilities across multiple states. He noted this project also includes a 10-year limited warranty on labor and materials, providing long-term assurance of quality and reliability.

A motion by Gier and seconded by Teel to award a contract to Advanced Rehabilitation Technology in the amount of \$449,857.74, passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

CFO Nugent reported work on implementing the inventory QR coding project continues with Irby and noted Irby's comments on how well organized the warehouse is and commended CWEP's ERP software vendor Professional Computer Solutions (PCS) on being great to work with.

General Counsel and Director of Customer Relations Ludwig noted staff are preparing for Elvis' retirement. There will be a resolution on the agenda for him next month. She reported they met with a consultant regarding the communications plan. She noted the contract was signed for the website redesign project and staff will begin work on it with the company. She noted the updates to the AMI system went well.

Director of Water Services Choate reported the water-main replacement on Forest and Zapletal Way is out for bid and bid approval is expected to be on February's board meeting agenda. He reported the water main replacement on Central Ave is tentatively scheduled to go out for bid in May 2026 under MODOT's Central Street and sidewalk replacement project.

Director of Power Services reported Allgeier Martin is pushing ULCS to finish up the punch list items on Feeder 20. Emery noted that Allgeier Martin continues to work on long lead time item bids for upcoming projects. He noted Integrated Resource Plan statements of qualifications were received and review of the statements will take place over the next couple weeks.

Director of Economic Development Howard reported the CEDC Housing committee met and gave an update on the Economic Development park.

General Manager Bryant reported Leadership Carthage kicked off their first session this week. He noted the Legislative session will be held on January 30th in the community room. He announced two CWEP retirement parties coming up; Harlan Block on January 30th and Elvis Castor on February 10th, both starting at 3:00PM.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

President Collier expressed his appreciation for another great year of Sparkle in the Park.

At 4:31 p.m. a motion by Gier and seconded by Ross to close a portion of the regular meeting pursuant to Section 610.021(1) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri: Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys, passed unanimously via a roll call vote.

Collier:	Aye
Garrison:	Aye
Gier:	Aye
Ross:	Aye
Teel:	Aye

The meeting went into closed session.

At 4:48 p.m. the meeting returned to open session. Gier moved to adjourn, Teel seconded, and the meeting adjourned.

President – Darren Collier

Secretary – Sid Teel