

CWEP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board met in regular session September 18th, 2025, 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

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

President Collier called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Gier and seconded by Garrison to approve the minutes as presented of the regular meeting of August 21, 2025, passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:

A motion by Gier and seconded by Teel to approve disbursements for August in the amount of \$4,721,926.56, passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Accountant Mandy Bates presented the financials to the Board. She reported August was the first month they made the cut off a little sooner, that way they can get financials out a little quicker. She encouraged Board members to keep asking questions even with CFO Nugent out, she noted it will help them learn.

General Manager Bryant introduced the newest employee to the Board, Accountant, Jamie Jadwin. He noted Jamie comes to CWEP from Leggett and Platt and will be a great addition to

the team. Director of Power Services Emery reported operating revenues on the electric side exceeded budget for both the month and year to date and operating expenses were over budget for the month and year to date. Emery reported on Sikeston's error supplying generation data to the Southwest Power Pool. Director of Water services Choate reported operating revenues for the water department exceeded budget for the month and fell short year to date and operating expenses were under budget for the month. He also noted on the wastewater side operating revenues exceeded budget for both the month and year to date and operating expenses were under budget for the month. Director of IT & Broadband Peterson noted operating revenues on the communication side exceeded budget for the month and year to date and Operating expenses were under budget for the month.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Garrison to approve the August 2025 financials passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION PERIOD: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of bids for the Sub 3-1 Recloser Replacement project

General Manager Bryant noted a formal request was issued seeking qualified contractors to construct the Sub 3-1 recloser replacement project. Proposals were received from B&L Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$203,534.36 and BBC Electrical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$368,211.00. After a thorough assessment, B&L Electric, Inc. met all specifications and requirements of all the requests of Allgeier, Martin and Associates, Inc on behalf of CWEP and offered the lowest project cost.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Teel to award this project to B&L Electric, In. in the amount of \$203,534.36, passed unanimously.

2. Recommendation to purchase Interfacing Software

GM Bryant reported a request for approval to purchase a proprietary interfacing software solution for CWEP's Electric department. The software is exclusively available through Survalent, a long-standing SCADA provider of CWEP at a cost of \$70,390.00.

The proposed software package includes enhancements that will significantly improve operational efficiency and system responsiveness. Specifically, it will enable better employee notifications for electric alarms via the Textpower Interface and provide secure remote viewing

capabilities of electric SCADA data through SurvalentONE Live. These features are critical to maintaining reliable and secure operations.

As a proprietary software application, this purchase qualifies within the bidding exemption of CWEP's purchasing policy.

A motion by Garrison and seconded by Ross to approve the purchase of this interfacing software at a total cost of \$70,390.00, passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of bids for Ford Explorers

General Manager Bryant reported requested proposals for two new 2025 or 2026 model Ford Explorers for the Administration Department and GIS Team. The following proposals were received:

- Joe Machens Ford \$47,889.00, 30-day lead time, 2025 Explorer
\$45,193.00, 4-month lead time, 2026 Explorer
- Rush Truck Centers of Joplin \$45,335.00, November delivery, 2026 Explorer
- Nashville Automotice LLC \$43,350.00, 60-day lead time, 2026 Chevrolet Traverse

After evaluating the proposals, both the administration department and GIS Team determined that the 2026 Ford Explorer best meets the required specifications and will maintain CWEP's existing fleet standardization.

Given the minimal price difference of \$142.00 and similar lead times between the two 2026 Explorer options, it is recommended to award the following.

- One 2026 Ford Explorer to Joe Machens Ford for \$45,193.00
- One 2026 Ford Explorer to Rush Truck Centers of Joplin for \$45,335.00.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Teel to award the purchase of one 2026 Ford Explorer to Joe Machens Ford in the amount of \$45,193.00 and one 2026 Ford Explorer to Rush Truck Centers in the amount of \$45,335.00, passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of bids for ¾-ton 4x4 Crew Cab Truck

General Manager Bryant noted CWEP requested proposals for a new ¾-ton, V8, 4x4 crew cab truck for the meter services department. The following proposals were received:

- Rush Truck Centers of Joplin: \$55,917.00, October 2025 availability, 2026 Ford F-250 XLT
- Joe Machens Ford: \$57,230.00, Estimated 5 weeks lead time, 2026 Ford F-250 XLT
- Andy Mohr Ford: \$75,821.30, Immediate availability, 2025 Ford F-250 Lariat

After review and evaluation, the proposal from Rush Truck Center offered the lowest cost and meets all specifications and falls below the budgeted amount.

A motion by Garrison and seconded by Teel to award the purchase of a 2026 Ford F-250 in the amount of \$55,917.00, passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Health Insurance Proposals

General Counsel & Director of Customer Relations Ludwig reviewed the proposed renewal from Cox Health Insurance as well as an alternative competitive proposal from United Healthcare. Cox Health's proposal offers a 6.5% increase in premiums whereas United Healthcare offers a - 10% decrease in premium for the first year with a 2nd year rate cap of 12.9%. Ludwig highlighted the history CWEP has with Cox Health and noted Cox Health is local and works well with CWEP, they know the health history of the CWEP employees as well as are in the know of some of the health impacts that are to come this year. Ludwig also mentioned CWEP is currently grandfathered in with Cox to be able to use Mercy in Carthage and there is a potential CWEP would lose that option if we were to leave Cox and later want to come back. Tobacco policies will also stay the same, tobacco users will pay 25% of the cost of their premiums.

A motion by Ross and seconded by Gier to accept the Cox Partners 80 Plan, with no change in coverage and a 6.5% increase in premiums with an incentive for non-tobacco users, passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

General Manager Bryant reported the MPUA Annual Conference is October 1-3rd. He noted he, Ludwig, and Emery attended the SPRA annual conference and touched on the water reallocation of Whitney Lake in Texas. He announced the Strategic Plan meeting will be held November 12-13th at MPUA in Columbia, MO and asked the Board if there was any interest in touring the Dogwood facility on the way back from Columbia. Bryant gave an update on CFO Nugent and noted she was in good spirits.

Accountant Ben Schwarting noted the auditor was at the facility all day on Wednesday. He reported he attended the APPA Business and Finance Conference this month.

General Counsel and Director of Customer Relations Ludwig reported she will be meeting with Congressman Burlison's Office next week. She noted Public Power Week is October 6-10th. There will be a Chamber Coffee on October 3rd to kick off Public Power Week and then a Lunch in the CWEP Centennial Complex Parking Lot on October 10th. She has been working with Kevin and Elvis on a policy regarding the interconnection and billing of solar facilities larger than 100 kW in size.

Director of Water Services gave an update on work order projects.

Director of It and Broadband services Peterson noted staff have been focusing on succession planning efforts including taking inventory on critical assets. He also attended APPA's Business and finance Conference this month.

Director of Economic Development Howard reported marketing the Economic Development Park has started.

Director of Power Supply Emery gave an update on transformer 3-1 and noted the methane levels have stabilized, they will resample again at the end of this month. He noted Allgeier Martin is working on the design for Sub 4 and added that the Sub 4 transformer is currently out for bid. He gave an update on the SWPA Substation Transformer addition. Emery noted they did an ARC Flash Study on the system and held a training for the employees today on ARC Flash.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

President Collier emphasized how good the new truck parking lot was looking.

At 4:53p.m a motion by Gier and seconded by Garrison to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

President – Darren Collier

Secretary – Sid Teel