

CWEP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board met in regular session February 20th, 2025, 3:00 p.m. at the CWEP Office, 627 W Centennial, Carthage, MO.

Board:

Brian Schmidt -Secretary

Ron Ross- President*

Darren Collier -Vice President

Lori Leece -Liaison

*Attended via videoconference

Sid Teel - Member

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 Alan Snow, Interim City Administrator Traci Cox

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

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Ross and seconded by Teel to approve the minutes as presented of the regular meeting of January 16th, 2025, passed unanimously.

A motion by Gier and seconded by Garrison to approve the minutes as presented of the Strategic Planning Work Session held on January 21st, 2025, passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:

A motion by Garrison and seconded by Teel to approve disbursements for January in the amount of \$4,245,966.02, passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

CFO Nugent presented the January 2025 financials to the Board, noting that combined operating expenses were under budget for the month and year to date, combined operating revenues exceeded budget for the month but are running short of budget for the year to date.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Gier to approve the January 2025 financials passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION PERIOD: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of the purchase of a block of internet protocol version 4 (IPv4) addresses

General Manager Bryant reported CWEP requested proposals for the purchase of Internet Protocol version 4 (Ipv4) addresses, which are essential for uniquely identifying devices on a network and facilitating data communication over the internet to support continued growth.

Proposals were received from Hilco IP Services, LLC, for \$67,584.00, IPv4 Market Group, LLC, for \$67,584.00, and from Nationwide Computer Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$77,892.36.

Although two proposals offered the same pricing, Ipv4 Market Group provided a more detailed explanation of their method for verifying the quality of the IP subnets. Considering the importance of IP quality and the lack of other relevant differentiators, the IT and Communications Department believes that Ipv4 Market Group is able to supply additional IP addresses without any anticipated delays.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Ross to award the purchase to Ipv4 Market Group for the total of \$67,584.00, passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of grit chamber upgrade project at the wastewater treatment plant

General Manager Bryant noted a request for approval to proceed with the grit chamber upgrade project at CWEP's Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project will include the replacement of grit augers and electrical panels.

The cost of this project is \$163,903.11 and will include all materials and labor. The original budget for this project was estimated at \$150,000.00. This construction work will be conducted in accordance with the General Construction and Operational Maintenance Services Contract with Randy Dubry Construction.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Gier to award this project to Randy Dubry Construction in the amount of \$163,903.11, passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

CFO Nugent reported staff is working on integrating truck entry times with payroll, she noted departments are working on budget and looking at rates.

General Counsel & Director of Customer Relations Ludwig noted there are a lot of events coming up this Spring including Customer Academy and the Tower-to-Tower Run. She commended her department for making it into work timely and efficiently even with the winter weather conditions.

Director of Water Services Choate noted January has been a busy month for Water distribution crews, with 13 main breaks this month.

Economic Development Manager Howard gave an update on the new Schreiber Project.

Director of IT and Broadband Peterson reported they received the lowest Cyber Risk score to date.

Director of Power Services Emery reported that with the cold weather, market prices remain level. Prices ran a little higher than normal yesterday morning, he noted they ran a couple of units to offset those prices. He gave an update on the transformer in Sub 2.

General Manager Bryant commended staff for a great job in preparing for the winter weather event. He reported there were several employees who showed up early in preparing trucks and clearing parking lots and noted how fortunate CWEP is to have such dependable staff. He noted SPP is under a Cold Weather Advisory. He gave an update on the work being done on Sub 2. GM Bryant reported that staff is still working closely with Brent McKinney and the folks at Lockton developing Career Framework for departments. He announced he will be sending out a letter to the Council and upcoming candidates regarding financial questions that have been asked. He noted this was a good opportunity to educate. GM Bryant gave a recap on the recent Strategic Plan meeting and noted it was a great experience.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Vice President Darren Collier thanked Chuck Bryant, Cassandra Ludwig, and Megan Kirby for all their efforts in arrangements for the MPUA tours and Strategic Plan meeting in Columbia, MO. He noted the Budget Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 16th at 1:00, lunch will be served at noon. He reported that May 14th will be the day the Budget will be presented to the Budget Ways and Means Committee. Collier thanked Traci Cox and Mayor Alan Snow for facilitating the meeting between CWEP and City Leadership.

Board Secretary Brian Schmidt inquired about how to dispose of transformers. GM Bryant noted the plan for Sub 2's transformer is to send it off for refurbishing and use it as a backup.

Schmidt emphasized the importance of looking at and updating the ordinance for CWEP Board terms. He thanked Traci Cox and Mayor Alan Snow for being at the meeting.

Mayor Alan Snow noted the sidewalk project on the square will start on Monday.

At 4:29 pm a motion by Ross and seconded by Teel to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

President – Ron Ross

Secretary – Brian Schmidt