PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO

Monday, April 15, 2013

REGULAR MEETING

Action Minutes

TIME & PLACE: The Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, in the County of Sierra, and State of New Mexico, met in Regular Session in full conformity with the Law and Ordinances of said Board, at the Commission Chambers of said City, on Monday the 15th day of April, 2013 at 5:30 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: The meeting was called to order by Bill Jacka, Chairman and Judy M. Harris acted as Secretary.

ATTENDANCE: Upon calling the roll the following members were reported present:

Bill Jacka, Chairman
Mike Potia, Vice-Chairman
Alvin Siffring, Member
George Szigeti, Member

Also Present:

Juan Fuentes, City Manager
Gil Avelar, Electric Superintendent
David Curtin, President of DirectNU Energy
Kevin Bassalleck, DirectNU Energy Representative
Judy M. Harris, Deputy City Clerk

Absent Was/Were:

James Hunt, Member

QUORUM: There being a quorum present the Board proceeded with the business at hand.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Bill Jacka, Chairman called for approval of the Agenda.

"Alvin Siffring moved approval of the Agenda as submitted."

Seconded by Mike Potia
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Bill Jacka, Chairman, called for review and approval of minutes of the Regular meeting held Tuesday, March 18, 2013.

"Mike Potia moved approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held Tuesday, March 18, 2013 as submitted."

Seconded by George Szigeti
Motion carried unanimously.
Klaus Wittern came before the Board with concerns regarding the transfer of more than 2 million dollars from the Utility Fund to the General Fund.

Juan Fuentes, City Manager stated that the document that Mr. Wittern is referring to was put together to give a better perspective of what has been happening in the past several years. There is no big secret that the Joint Utilities has been covering a deficit in the General Fund, and the goal for the upcoming Fiscal Year is to try and look to see how we can reduce that.

Hans Townsend reviewed a handout that he distributed to the Board regarding utility bills.

None.

David Curtin, President of DirectNU Energy, reviewed the Walmart Solar project with the Board.

Bill Jacka, Chairman stated that one of the greatest considerations that Gil Avelar was having was the safety factor of the power coming back into the lines.

Kevin Bassalleck, of DirectNU Energy, stated it is certainly addressed in some detail in the report from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council document that was sponsored by the USCOE. There are a number of protective layers; both in term of the State Policy associated with interconnection standards, and what technical requirements they have. Any inverter that is used has to be certified by underwriter’s lavatory, it’s UL1741 that sets out the safety standards, and codes associated with the grid interact.

Juan Fuentes, City Manager stated that the information from David and Kevin will be beneficial to the City while we are going through the process. As they move forward through the Solar process he would like to look at the legal side as well, because the City has an agreement with Sierra Electric Coop that only allows us to buy power from them.

David Curtin, President of DirectNU Energy noted that their intention is not to be a new source of electricity, but to offset usage so that the City would not be the only purchaser.

Discussion ensued with no action taken.

George Szigeti reviewed the net metering handout with the Board, and asked how they would format the ordinance so that it can be submitted to the City Commission for adoption.

Juan Fuentes, City Manager, stated that there is still some work that needs to be done, and WH Pacific has been very helpful in assisting the City. The first thing they would need to do is send the documents to WH Pacific for their expertise. WH Pacific would then work with our staff to develop the documents that we want to see taken before the Board, and then we would develop the ordinance that would adopt this program for the City.
SEC – REVISED RATES:

Juan Fuentes, City Manager, stated, due to Jimmy Capps’ absence we will postpone the revised rates until next month’s meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board Bill Jacka, Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVAL: PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of
2013, on motion duly made by Bill Fuentes, seconded by Bill Jacka, and carried.

Bill Jacka, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board