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 21st day of July, 2008 at 5:30 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: The meeting was called to order by Alvin Siffring, Chairman and Hazel F. Peterson acted as Secretary.

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

Alvin Siffring, Chairman
Bill Jacka, Member
Mike Potia, Member
Al Wilkinson, Member

Also Present:
Bernadine Garcia, Utility Office Manager
Gil Avelar, Electric Superintendent
Hazel F. Peterson, Deputy City Clerk II

Absent Was/Were:
James Hunt, Member

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Alvin Siffring, Chairman called for approval of the Agenda.

"Bill Jacka moved approval of the Agenda as submitted."

Seconded by Mike Potia
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Alvin Siffring, Chairman called for review and approval of minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, June 16 2008.

"Bill Jacka moved approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, June 16, 2008."

Seconded by Mike Potia
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Gerald Boland approached the podium and stated he has some questions. He stated they are all trying to decide whether they should be neutral for or against some of the expansion that's going on so he wanted to get some questions answered.

He stated a few years ago he thinks the City for electricity was paying about .83¢ a megawatt, and he would like to know what the current megawatt wholesale cost is to the City.

He stated he thinks a couple of years ago when it was .83¢ a megawatt the City was using somewhere between forty six thousand five hundred and forty eight thousand five hundred megawatts so he would also like to know as an average where the City is at, at a yearly basis on the actual megawatt purchase.
He stated then as far as wanting to know what the actual retail rate at the commercial and residential rates are.

Mr. Boland stated then on water; he basically wanted to know what is the total metered consumption annually for T or C.

He stated he imagined that they are electrical pumps; he was wondering if this Board knew how much wattage is consumed in the pumping for the wells to provide that water, how many megawatts, that would probably be in the megawatts, maybe, it may be a megawatt who knows.

He stated that basically again what the cost per gallon at the residential and commercial rate.

He asked if they could convert on the first question about how many gallons to how many acre feet that would be, it's something like a hundred forty four thousand gallons to a acre foot, something like that.

He stated he wanted to know if they know what the exposure is going to be for the City as far as doing any kind of infrastructure out there, if this Board has been made apprised of the development, basically what in like dollars today, because he knows you can't go by what dollars in the future, but what dollars to our exposure is for bringing any kind of sewage and electricity and water to that area. He asked if this Board has been given privy to that type of data before, so that there's actually seems there's some real planning going on and some crunching the numbers.

Mr. Boland stated these are his questions and if this Board could respond tonight that's great, but if they can even respond somehow in the paper, if Jay is so nice to basically put the questions in. He stated if they can he would ask tonight because he thinks this board only meets on a monthly basis.

Mr. Siffring stated the customary thing that the City Commission has been doing is to take the questions and then respond at the next meeting. He stated this Board tends to follow their guideline.

Mr. Boland asked when they might expect this information and how might they expect it.

Mr. Siffring stated he guessed if they followed the cities lead it would be at the next meeting.

Bill Jacka stated that at the last meeting they were dead in the water with the insert until the City could decide where to come up with the money.

Al Wilkinson stated that there was an article that appeared in the paper with a list of the items that was presented to the City Commission.

He stated he has a couple of suggestions and the first one is that this Board resubmit their previous motion to the City, because there was some ambivalence about whether they could maybe afford it sometime in the future but not really specific as to when so if the motion is resubmitted maybe they could see fit to come up with the money especially since Berna had new numbers, a lower figure for the cost of doing this.

He stated that his second suggestion that he might make is that this Board entertain the possibility of a public/private partnership, that perhaps they could solicit a business to fund the cost of the insert, maybe even printing the insert and the cost of the stuffing. He stated it would be good advertising for the business and good for the city too.
He stated he would just make these suggestions incase anybody cares to discuss them.

Bill Jacka asked how they would go about implementing this.

Berna Garcia stated that going back to the City Commission they could try again but they’re not planning on meeting again until it looks like September to get together and discuss the budget and see where there’s any extra money. She stated that’s where it was tabled was to see if they could find the funds to be able to do that.

Bill Jacka stated it was like five hundred dollars.

Ms. Garcia stated that actually the Commission had the reduced amount that she had attached a copy of her quote from the third party person and it was two hundred and ninety nine.

Bill Jacka asked if there would be anything wrong with trying to see if somebody wanted to advertise on the back side of the insert or something.

Ms. Garcia stated she would have to ask because she doesn’t know that there would be any problem with it, it would just be the cost of whatever additional advertising it would be for them to print it up and do it, that was what the cost was just on that pamphlet it would be an additional cost to figure out what it would just be their name or what on there.

Further discussion ensued.

Alvin Siffring stated he doesn’t think this Board should let this issue drop because he’s sure the City Commission is looking, but what this Board is trying to do is to educate the public for the benefit of the city and so he doesn’t think just because they said no at this point doesn’t mean they want to let it drop.

Bill Jacka stated that maybe they could look into the solicitation of the sponsors and see what the City Commission says.

Ms. Garcia stated she could look into that.

Discussion continued.

Mike Potia stated he would be willing to sponsor something like this personally.

Al Wilkinson stated he would volunteer to go and talk to the City Manager about this and if they could get him to go along with this idea he didn’t think the Commissioner’s would intercede.

“Al Wilkinson made a motion that he and Mike Potia form a subcommittee to pursue the idea of a public/private partnership.”

Seconded by Bill Jacka

Alvin Siffring asked if the city was going to produce it.

Mr. Wilkinson stated the sponsor would produce it, the city would give the sponsor the rough copy with Berna’s exclusions and produce it in draft form bring it to this Board, if this Board approves it then with Jaime aboard then it goes into the bill at no cost to the city.

Bill Jacka asked then we would get the sponsors to go with Berna’s estimate as to the cost to produce.
Mr. Wilkinson stated that from the sponsors they would get commitment of monies to produce a document roughly corresponding to the draft that they gave them, but well done, professionally done. Run off five thousand copies and then they can have a surplus to distribute at the County Fair or something.

Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Discussion ensued.

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

APPROVAL:
PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of August, 2008, on motion duly made by Bill Yackel, seconded by Mike Pitta, and carried. as corrected.

Alvin Siffring, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board