CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2018

REGULAR MEETING

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. 3rd Street, at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 19, 2018.

INTRODUCTION:

ROLL CALL:

George Szigeti, Chairman
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman
Ron Pacourek, Member
Ed Williams, Member
Randy Ashbaugh, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Renee Cantin, Interim City Manager
Bo Easley, Electric Division Director
City Attorney John Appel
Priscilla Fuentes, Electric Division Administrative Assistant
Jesus Navarro, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor
Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Szigeti called for approval of the agenda.

Member Pacourek moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chairman Dornbusch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Szigeti noted that the October minutes has disappeared into cyberspace and Deputy Clerk Torres will have to re-create those minutes so we will have to approve those at the next meeting.

No action was taken.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Klaus Wittern asked about the analysis the board requested regarding whether or not the proposals that were submitted on the meters, were compatible with upgrading to AMI, and if they would be a significant cost. He had concerns about the board not receiving the analysis because they need that information to provide input to the City Commission.
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Chairman Szigeti confirmed that the board did request that it be ascertained whether or not the system could be upgraded to an AMI System at a reasonable cost, before the system moved forward with the AMR proposal. And to this date, they have not heard anything about that.

Discussion/Action: WAPA Contract – Bo Easley, Electric Division Director:

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director brought forward the WAPA Contract and stated that the original contract was supposed to terminate September 30th of 2024. WAPA has sent out a new contract and the effective date will remain in effect through September 30, 2057. Delivery from the electric service under contract 17-slc-0914 will begin October 1, 2024 and will remain in effect through September 30, 2057. The contract has been reviewed by City Attorney John Appel. The new contract is very similar to the old contract, given a few minor changes to the wording. The rates will stay the same and the scheduling also remains the same.

Chairman Szigeti explained to the board that the letter that was written extends the contract beyond 2024. The old contract will still be in effect until 2024, except for a couple of paragraphs which take effect on the signature date of the contract.

City Attorney Appel noted that there may need to be a modification at some future date (around 2027) if they are unable to continue using the transmission line.

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director added, should WAPA or PNM fail to reach an agreement on extending the use of PNM’s transmission lines, they are to give part to Elephant Butte’s delivery point.

Chairman Szigeti stated that the contract did not stipulate that the rates will remain the same for the duration of the contract. They are set on a separate basis.

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director responded that they have to give us notification if they change the rates.

Member Williams made a motion to recommend approval of the WAPA contract to the City Commission. Vice Chairman Dornbusch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Update: Electric Department - Bo Easley, Electric Division Director:

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director reported the following:

- Contractors should be completed with the High school Fitness Center in about a month or two.
- The Cielo Vista Subdivision Project has been completed. All new electrical lines have been installed and all of the transformers have been replaced.
- Substation Battery Replacement: They are waiting on one more part to come in from HEL out of Albuquerque.
- The replacement tower for Mud Mountain should be here after Thanksgiving.
They are waiting on the electricians to run the conduit and pour the Padmount transformer at First Savings Bank. After that they can run the electrical portion on the city’s side.

The Housing Authority is in the process of doing the paperwork for their solar panels.

He submitted his paper work for the poles that need to be moved for the NMDOT roundabouts. They had a public meeting last week and there were not very many people who attended.

He will be presenting the AMR Meter Project to the City Commission in December.

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director’s response to Klaus Wittern’s comment regarding the analysis:

- When the board recommended to move forward with the AMR system, they asked him to look and see if there were ways to convert the meters from the AMR system to the AMI system. You would be able to convert the electric system from AMR to AMI, but you would be able to with the water system because the water meters are different from the electric meters.

Member Ashbaugh asked what the city has to do in order to have both meters on the same system.

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director responded that he will present both systems to the Commission so they can decide on which system they would like to go with. We are looking at roughly a $20,000 difference between the AMR system and the AMI system. He is recommending AMI system because it would automatically include the electric system and the water system (when they decide to include the water meters).

Member Ashbaugh responded, then that’s the only way to go.

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director stated, if the Commissioners decide to go with the AMI system, then he will bring it back to the Public Utility Advisory Board for review and then he will take it back to the Commission for final approval.

Chairman Szigeti recommended that Mr. Easley make certain that the Commissioners understand that going with the AMR system means that they will never be able to integrate those two systems.

Discussion/Update: Sanitation Department - Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director:

There were no updates regarding Sanitation.

Discussion/Update: Water/Wastewater Department - Arnle Castaneda, Water/Wastewater Supervisor:

Jesus Navarro, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor reported the following:

- Geological services will be coming in on the 26th of November to work on well #8.
- There are issues they need to address with the Vac Station on Mims Street. They are down to one pump again. They received quotes to get it refurbished, and that will cost around $4,000.
- They have been talking to engineers about the North clarifiers, but they still have not received a date of when they will begin the work.

Member Pacourek said that he noticed Magnolia has sprung a leak again and he understands that is due to a spring.
Jesus Navarro, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor confirmed that there is a spring in that location. They receive a lot of complaints about that specific water leak, and they try to advise the public that the leak is due to there being a spring in that location.

Discussion/Action: Energy Cost Adjustment - George Szigeti, Chairman:

Chairman Szigeti stated that he wanted to wait until January to revisit this so they can have a better understanding of what our costs are going to be.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

There were no additional comments from the board.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Interim City Manager Cantin thanked the board members for volunteering their precious time serving on this board. She informed the board that she has a box of the informational booklets that were handed out the NMDOT I-25 Roundabout Public Hearing. She also thanked Bo Easley for being the only one out of all of the utilities who finished all of his work on that project.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board, George Szigeti, Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 19th day of February, 2019.

Jeff Dombusch, Vice Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board