CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

REGULAR MEETING

Action Minutes

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. Third, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 5:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTION:

PRESENT:

George Szigeti, Chairman
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman
Ron Pacourek, Member
Gil Avelar, Member

ABSENT:

Randy Ashbaugh, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Bo Easley, Electric Department Director
Melissa Torres, Finance Director
Sonya Williams, Utility Office Manager
Ruby Otero-Vallejos, Water/Wastewater Admin. Assistant
Marty Davis, Interim Water Dept. Supervisor
Tammy Gardener, Electric Division Admin. Assistant
Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk
Edward Williams, Retired Electric Division Director

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Member Pacourek moved approval of the agenda.

Member Dornbusch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017:

Member Pacourek asked that it be noted in the minutes that the map he presented at the last meeting was provided by Fire Chief Tooley. He also wanted it noted that the Fire Department is going to take responsibly for the fire hydrant operations.

Deputy Clerk Torres informed the Board that the minutes taken are only action minutes. Therefore, if any Board member has specific points they would like added to the minutes, please let it be known during the meeting or email the City Clerk’s Office, and those specific points will be added before the next scheduled meeting.

Member Avelar moved approval of the January 17, 2017 minutes with the additions added by Member Pacourek.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Sonya Williams, Utility Office Manager and Melissa Torres, Finance Director asked the Board what details they would like added to the utility reports.

Chairman Szigeti noted that they would like to see the reports added to the agenda quarterly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Update: Water/Wastewater Department - Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director:

Marty Davis, Interim Water Dept. Supervisor, and Ruby Otero-Vallejos, Water/Waste Water Admin, Assistant reported the following:

- On March 6th interviews will be held for a new Water Dept. Supervisor.
- Contractors will be doing surveys on the manholes that need to be replaced throughout the city.
- The emergency generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been installed and is ready for any power outages.

Vice Chairman Dornbusch had concerns regarding the water leak on Magnolia Street.

Mr. Davis replied that it’s due to a spring, and tomorrow they will be running the drain to see if that resolves the problem. If that doesn’t work, they might have to dig up the drain and have it fixed.
Discussion/Update: Electric Department – Electric Division Director:

Electric Department Director Bo Easley introduced his new Administrative Assistant Tammy Gardener.

Mr. Easley reported the following:

- American Electric tested the substation. They had to remove the CT’s on top of the transformers so they could get to the plug port to test the towers and all of them tested well. A few meters were replaced as well as (2) two counters on Riverside and Williamsburg. They also re-tested the oil sample on for the north transformer. Hopefully we will receive it back soon.
- The High School will be building a Fitness Center. They are just waiting on the engineers to finish the design. Hopefully within the next month the design will be complete and they can start to move forward on that.
- The estimate for the two (2) story Hospital is almost complete.
- They built a 3 phase line for the Animal Shelter. The Animal Shelter will be a single phase tap off the 3 phase line, but the Armory will be refurbished and a Public Safety Building for the Police Officers will be added.
- They are still giving SCCOG information on the Year Out for the automatic meter reading system for electric and water.
- The meter can for the Veterans Center was replaced last week.
- Tomorrow they will be switching out phases by Conoco up toward the Sanitation Department.
- He met with the electrician last week regarding the Brewery Company and after payment is submitted from the owners they will be building a 3 phase bank for the Brewery.
- Scoreboards were installed at Louis Armijo Ball Fields.

Member Avelar asked if the metering at the Armory has been updated.

Mr. Easley responded that the old metering was updated 3 or 4 years ago, and it will be changed once they add the 3 phase metering system.

Chairman Szigeti noted that they will need additional information for the pass thru.

Discussion: Electric pass-thru charge – George Szigeti, Chairman:

Chairman Szigeti gave an overview of the preliminary electric pass-thru report. The report showed how the pass thru rate was calculated.

Edward Williams approached the podium and explained that the services budget fee is to inspect the line installations, poles and etc. it has nothing to do with the cost of power. If you start to include all costs then you’re talking about rate cost, a rate study, and you’re starting to go way beyond pass-thru.

Electric Division Director Easley noted that the City is in contract with Sierra Electric Cooperative for another 10 years.
Chairman Szigeti stated that what they are trying to do right now is get an idea of what the total costs to the Electric Department would be.

Member Pacourek stated that the pass-thru formula we’re using now doesn’t include the Solar Array.

Sonya Williams stated that according to the city code the City Commission is supposed to look at the pass thru on a yearly basis.

Member Avelar replied that’s something that may need to be addressed.

Chairman Szigeti asked that this item be brought back to the next meeting as discussion-action.

Member Pacourek noted that the Solar Array produces electricity, and is for city use only. Does the Solar Array produce more electricity than the city ever uses? And if so, then what happens to the surplus?

Chairman Szigeti replied the amount of electricity produced by the Array is supposed to go for City Buildings and City Facilities.

Member Dornbusch and Member Pacourek asked why the customers have to pay for the pass thru if the city doesn’t.

Chairman Szigeti noted that maybe the City Manager will be at the next meeting so he can answer that question.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

There were no additional comments from the Board.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

There were no comments from staff.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board, George Szigeti, Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVAL:

PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of March, 2017, on a motion duly made by Ron Pacourek, seconded by Jeff Dornbusch and carried.

[Signature]
George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board