



Utility Board Public Hearing & Meeting Minutes

For May 17, 2021

The Atlantic Municipal Utilities' Board of Trustees met on May 17, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the Municipal Utilities business office for the purpose of conducting a public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed plan, specifications, form of contract, and estimate of cost for the Spruce Substation Bus E Control Building and Switchgear Replacement for Atlantic Municipal Utilities, Atlantic, Iowa.

Present: Trustees – Jody Lorence, Judd Meneely, Dave Sturm, Ted Robinson, and Kate Smith.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Steve Tjepkes, General Manager; Mitch Burg, Director of Water Operations; Todd Friesleben, Director of Electric Operations; Jim Behrens, Atlantic City Council Representative; and Dave Britson, IT Coordinator.

Also participating through Zoom: Jennifer Saathoff, Board Secretary; and Jeff Godwin, Snyder & Associates.

Chairperson Lorence called the public hearing to order.

General Manager reviewed the resolutions for the Spruce Substation Bus E Control Building and Switchgear Replacement. There were no written or oral comments.

Therefore, Trustee Sturm moved to close the public hearing and Trustee Meneely seconded the motion. All ayes.

Chairperson Lorence then closed the public hearing at 4:02 pm.

The Atlantic Municipal Utilities' Board of Trustees then went on to conduct the regular meeting session on May 17, 2021, at 4:02 P.M. in the Municipal Utilities' offices.

Present: Trustees – Jody Lorence, Judd Meneely, Dave Sturm, Ted Robinson, and Kate Smith.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Steve Tjepkes, General Manager; Mitch Burg, Director of Water Operations; Todd Friesleben, Director of Electric Operations; Jim Behrens, Atlantic City Council Representative; and Dave Britson, IT Coordinator.

Also participating through Zoom: Jennifer Saathoff, Board Secretary; and Jeff Godwin, Snyder & Associates

Chairperson Lorence called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Trustee Robinson moved, seconded by Trustee Smith, to adopt the meeting agenda. All ayes.

Trustee Sturm moved, seconded by Trustee Smith, to approve the monthly consent agenda. All ayes. The consent agenda included approval of prior meeting minutes, the monthly financial statements, filing of monthly reports, the monthly vouchers, application for partial payment #3 with Shane Poe Construction, and easement.

Under the action items for the month, Jeff Godwin from Snyder & Associates gave an overview of the Nishnabotna River Crossing Project and explained the need for the proposed Change Order #1. After a brief discussion Trustee Sturm moved to approve Change Order No. 1 for the 2019 AMU Nishnabotna River Crossing Project with Shane Poe Construction. The motion was seconded by Trustee Meneely. All Ayes.

General Manager Tjepkes and Jeff Godwin, reviewed with the Board the Water Department's 2021 AMU Clearwell Rehabilitation Project. After a brief discussion, Trustee Robinson moved to approve Resolution 2021-05: Resolution Authorizing Bids for the 2021 AMU Clearwell Rehabilitation Rebid – Atlantic, IA. The motion was seconded by Trustee Robinson. The roll being called the following named Trustees voted:

Aye: Robinson, Smith, Lorence, Meneely, and Sturm.
Nay: None

whereupon the Chairperson declared said resolution duly adopted and signed her approval thereto.

General Manager Tjepkes introduced to the Board the Electric Department's project for the Spruce Substation Bus E Control Building and Switchgear Replacement. After a brief discussion, Trustee Sturm moved to approve Resolution 2021-06: Plans and Specifications, Proposed Form of Contract, and Estimate of Costs for Spruce Substation Bus E Control Building and Switchgear Replacement for Atlantic Municipal Utilities, Atlantic, Iowa and the Taking of Bids for Furnishing Such Work. The motion was seconded by Trustee Smith. The roll being called the following named Trustees voted:

Aye: Sturm, Robinson, Smith, Lorence, and Meneely.
Nay: None

whereupon the Chairperson declared said resolution duly adopted and signed her approval thereto.

General Manager Tjepkes went on to review the bids for the Spruce Substation Bus E Control Building and Switchgear Replacement Project. After reviewing the two bids, Trustee Sturm moved to approve the low bid Harold K. Scholz to do the work for \$114,500. The motion was seconded by Trustee Meneely. All Ayes.

General Manager Tjepkes reported on a phone call received from MidAmerican Energy (MEC) inquiring if AMU would be interested in selling our electric utility to MEC. AMU legal counsel, Ahlers & Cooney Law Firm, indicated the AMU Board is the appropriate body to reply to the inquiry. The Board discussed the benefits of having a municipal electric utility including maintaining local control, local work force, very good system reliability, strong finances, low electric rates, and the value of services provided at no charge to the City of Atlantic which exceeds \$400,000/year. Based on these considerations, Trustee Sturm moved to respond to MidAmerican Energy that AMU is not interested in selling the electric utility, seconded by Trustee Smith. All Ayes

General Manager Tjepkes updated the Board on generation and power supply, purchased power expenses, status of possible expansion of Glacier Substation, and the possible sale of AMU's surplus capacity to MRES.

Director Friesleben went over what the electric department is working on. Director Burg discussed what has been going on in the water department.

Chairperson Lorence asked if there was any old or new business to discuss. There was not.

There being no further business, Trustee Smith moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Sturm. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Joanne Lorence, Chairperson

Attest:

Jennifer M. Saathoff, Secretary

