

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS

Minutes of January 13, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Works was held on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., in the Boardroom at 121 West Court Avenue.

In attendance:

Gene P. Hancock	Steve D. Reeves, Jr.	Vickie Gorham	Bill Patrick
Michael G. Monaghan	Ken Barnett	Jeff Auman	Stacia May
Henry O. Watts	David Tuck	Jeff Chapman	Chris Trainer
	Carlos Cometto	Jerry Smith	Chris Lindley
	Denise Ogletree	Richard Gentry	
	Eduardo Noriega	George Petersen	

I. Chairman Watts called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Mr. Barnett.

II. Chairman Watts gave the statement of compliance with the notification provision of the Freedom of Information Act.

III. Business:

A. Chairman Watts presented a recommendation from staff to approve a requisition in the amount of \$20,511.90 for a cell assembly replacement at the water treatment plant. Manager Reeves noted that this was not bid out since it is a sole source provider; only one vendor provides this type of equipment to work with the equipment already in place. Mr. Tuck explained that the manufacturer of the hypo-chlorite generator is the only manufacturer for the electric cell assembly that generates the bleach. He noted that the labor was bid out and the low bid was reflected on the requisition.

A motion to approve the requisition as recommended was made by Commissioner Hancock, seconded by Commissioner Monaghan, and unanimously approved.

B. Manager Reeves referred to an invoice from the Chamber of Commerce for 2011 membership in the amount of \$1,799. He noted that the Commissioners have typically made the decision whether to continue with that membership.

A motion was made by Commissioner Monaghan, seconded by Commissioner Hancock, and unanimously approved.

- C. Chairman Watts presented a request to amend the Natural Gas Incentive Policy to include the word "new" in two locations in the policy.

A motion to approve the amendment was made by Commissioner Monaghan, seconded by Commissioner Hancock, and unanimously approved.

- D. Chairman Watts noted a prior discussion of insurance coverage for retired employees who move out-of-state, and how that funding would be applied. He noted that Mr. Patrick had reviewed the recommended change, and that it would be incorporated into the personnel handbook once approved.

A motion to approve the amendment to the current policy was made by Commissioner Monaghan, seconded by Commissioner Hancock, and unanimously approved.

- E. Chairman Watts presented a recommendation from Mr. Noriega to go with the second lowest bid from Ed Young Sales in the amount of \$19,992.75 for gas pressure recorders. Mr. Noriega explained that this would maintain consistency across the systems, adding that we currently use old mercury gauges so the feeling is that to switch to a different brand would create other issues with compatibility between software, with installation, more training, maintenance, and repair parts. He noted that they are the work horse in the industry with an excellent reputation. They already have several of their gauges that work very well. Rather than switching softwares to an unknown for the small differential, the recommendation is to go with the second lowest bid. Commissioner Monaghan asked if the fact that only one brand would be honored was included in the technical specifications when going out for bids. Mr. Noriega responded that had the price differential been a huge amount, he would have gone that route but did not for the small amount of difference.

A motion to approve the bid from Ed Young Sales was made by Commissioner Hancock; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Monaghan, and unanimously approved.

- F. Manager Reeves presented the proposed 2011 budget after noting a work session on December 22. He stated that the budget is presented without any recommendation for a rate increase for 2011. He pointed out the highlights as discussed during the budget work session including the establishment of an electric rate stabilization fund in the amount of \$1,100,000; the transfer to the City of Greenwood in the amount of \$1,200,000, plus the estimated cost of

utilities for The Federal Building at \$13,400; and a 2% cost-of-living increase for all employees, to be effective January 1, 2011.

A motion to approve the 2011 budget as recommended was made by Commissioner Monaghan, and seconded by Commissioner Hancock. Commissioner Hancock requested an explanation of the fuel adjustment clause with Duke Energy. Manager Reeves explained that CPW is billed monthly based on fuel costs and other factors; if at the end of the year they have a true-up and if their costs have exceeded what they have billed, they have the right to come back and bill us a lump sum. To help avoid passing that lump sum on to customers, the Board has chosen to establish a rate stabilization fund. In the event that happens, there would be sufficient monies to pay that true-up amount without a significant impact on the rate payers. Mr. Patrick noted that although it was not essential to the motion, but if the budget were approved with the explanation of the pay raise, it would be clearer if the minutes reflected that the motion was to approve the budget including a 2% cost-of-living adjustment, effective January 1, 2011. Chairman Watts added that employees had not received an increase in two years, and this adjustment falls in line with what had recently been passed by the City and the County for their employees. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Other Business:

1. Manager Reeves informed the Commissioners of the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner on Friday, January 21, at 5:30 p.m.

V. Executive Session:

A motion was made by Commissioner Monaghan and seconded by Commissioner Watts to go into *Executive Session* for contractual and personnel matters; the motion was unanimously approved.

VI. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: _____, 2011

Secretary