

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Coldwater Board of Public Utilities

Coldwater Board of Public Utilities  
Coldwater, Michigan

September 7, 2022  
5:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber

Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Members:  
President Stevens, Vice President Ohm, Travis Machan, John Wellet, Terry Whelan

Others:  
Director Jakubczak, Nicki Luce, John Springhall, Brian Musselman, Pat Pool, Tom Eldridge, Andrew Cameron, Bob Worley, Harold Jenkins, Jesse Smith, Brandon Heiney, Bryan Torres-Alcantar, Keith Baker, Kerri Jakubczak, Jody Young, Don Reid

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by President Stevens

NOTICE OF MEETING:

A notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with Michigan Public Act No. 267.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

It was noted that there were no public comment emails received as of 3:30 p.m. prior to the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

NOTE: The items listed in the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board and its Director and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Board Member or citizen. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and Board action will be taken separately on said item. Those items so approved under the heading "Consent Agenda" will appear in the Board minutes in their proper form.

MINUTES:

1. Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors held August 3, 2022.
2. Regular Meeting of the Michigan South Central Power Agency Board of Commissioners held July 7, 2022.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

1. Board of Public Utilities Operation Reports and Financial Statements for July 2022.
2. Bills and Accounts for period ending August 31, 2022.
3. Power Supply Cost Projections.
4. MERS Defined Benefit Pension Plan Statement for the quarter ending June 30, 2022.

MOTION: Member Wellet moved that the Consent Agenda items be approved as presented.

Member Machan seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Recent new hires Brandon Heiney, Network Technician, and Bryan Torres-Alcantar, OJT student, were introduced. Each provided a brief bio to the Board.

REGULAR AGENDA

GIS PRESENTATION:

Jesse Smith, GIS Technician, explained to the Board the City's Geographical Information System (GIS) program, the services it provides and future staff goals.

MERS 2021 ANNUAL ACTUARIAL VALUATION (AAV) REPORT:

Finance Director, Tom Eldridge, presented the MERS 2021 Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Valuation Report and summarized the results for the Board.

STOCK PAD MOUNT TRANSFORMERS:

Because delivery of transformers has suffered a significant impact from global supply chain shortages, quotes were solicited for the purchase of 26 pad mount transformers to make certain adequate quantities are available for future stock. Staff recommended the low bid from Stuart Irby in the amount of \$216,602.

MOTION: Member Machan moved to approve the low bid from Stuart Irby in the amount of \$216,602 for the purchase of 26 pad mount transformers.

Member Ohm seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUTTERS AVENUE FARM LEASE:

The Board was presented with Agreement No. A22-33 which contained specific terms for the lease of a three-acre parcel located west of the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) to Sexton Farms, L.L.C. for \$120 per acre per year for crop years 2022-2026.

MOTION: Member Whelan moved to approve Lease Agreement No. A22-33 with Sexton Farms, L.L.C. for \$120 per acre per year for crop years 2022-2026 and forward to City Council for introduction.

Member Ohm seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

HART SOLAR PROJECT:

Director Jakubczak discussed the Hart Solar Project (“Project VI”).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- This month’s Power Cost Adjustment is \$0.01210 and the PCA for secondary meters is \$0.01247.

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- Sandy McBride has accepted the open Customer Service Representative position. Sandy resides in Coldwater and brings with her several years of administrative assistance experience. Her first day will be September 12. We want to welcome Sandy to the City of Coldwater and the Coldwater Board of Public Utilities team.
- Bryan Torres-Alcantar has joined the IT Department as our 2022/2023 OJT student. He is currently enrolled in the Computer Networking Technologies program at the BACC. As in year's past, our hope is for Bryan to gain valuable firsthand experience as it relates to his coursework at BACC.
- Apple Fest is fast approaching but will look different this year. With the work nearing completion at the Four Corners Park, the festival will be spread out for three blocks on US-12 between Division Street and Clay Street, extend down South Hanchett and South Monroe as well as in the Tibbits Plaza parking lot. The event will be held downtown on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Fall hydrant flushing is scheduled for the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be working two shifts, 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. They will start in Ward 1 and move to Wards 4, 2 and 3 respectively throughout the remainder of the week. During hydrant flushing you may notice discoloration of your water. If this occurs, slowly run cold water out of your faucet until the water becomes clear. This process will remove sediment from the system that naturally accumulates.
- CBPU will be hosting the annual Household Hazardous Waste collection event on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Branch County Fairgrounds. We would like to thank the City of Coldwater, City of Bronson, Village of Quincy, and Algansee, Bethel, Bronson, Butler, Coldwater, Girard, Kinderhook, Ovid and Quincy Townships for participating. Only waste from these communities will be collected at this year's event. Please visit our website for a list of items that will and will not be accepted.
- It's back! Mark Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> on your calendar to attend the third annual Hoptoberfest. Authentic German food and cold beer along with live entertainment. The event runs from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on South Monroe Street in downtown Coldwater.
- The City's annual Haunted Forest will be held Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at Rotary Park. An early "less scary" session will be held each night from 5:00 -7:30 p.m. with the scarier version running from 7:30-9:00 p.m. The cost is only \$5.00/person.

- On August 16, 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law by President Biden. It included the following potential benefits to Coldwater Board of Public Utilities.

Production Tax Credits and Investment Tax Credits: This allows tax exempt entities such as municipal utilities and governments the ability to apply for up to a 15% incentive on investment in clean energy technologies. This originally was only available to for profit entities. This has the potential of lowering cost for Solar, Battery Storage, and Electric Vehicle infrastructure.

Carbon Capture and Storage: This will extend and expand 45Q tax credits to assist in the capturing of carbon emissions from fossil fuel plants, such as Prairie State.

Energy Efficiency Investments: This will help to make energy efficiency improvements affordable for homeowners through tax incentives. It also has provisions for expanding the Energy Smart Appliance rebate program.

Electric Vehicle Tax Credits: This extends and increase the tax credits for the purchase of electric vehicles.

State Grant Opportunities for Infrastructure Resiliency Funding: Each state will be getting money to divide up amongst its electric utilities for infrastructure improvements. The State of Michigan is working on a fair and equitable way to make sure that each utility is able to share in this money to help improve their grid resiliency.

- The CBPU received a *Certificate of Recognition* from the ERA for its participation and successful evaluation in the Discharge Monitoring Report – Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) 42 Study at the WRRF laboratory.

Several thank you notes were received from the Branch County 4-H Fair participants for the trophies, banners and plaques sponsored by the CBPU.

A thank you note was received from Kevin Maynard, Director of Electric Utilities at the City of Marshall, for mutual aid assistance on August 30, 2022.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next regular meeting is **Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

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CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(H) OF PA 267 OF 1976 TO CONSIDER MATERIAL EXEMPT FROM DISCUSSION OR DISCLOSURE BY STATE OR FEDERAL STATUE:

MOTION: Member Machan moved to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of PA 267 of 1976 to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

Member Wellet seconded the motion.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

“AYE”: President Stevens, Vice President Ohm, Member Machan, Member Wellet, Member Whelan

“NAY”: None

Motion carried unanimously.

President Stevens called the regular meeting back to order at 6:02 p.m.

Director Jakubczak recommended the Board approve Resolution No. 22-82 and Agreement No. A22-34 as presented and forward to City Council for final authorization.

MOTION: Member Machan moved to approve Resolution No. 22-82 and Agreement No. A22-34 as presented and forward to City Council for final authorization.

Member Whelan seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no other business to come before the Board, President Stevens adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicki Luce, Secretary  
Coldwater Board of Public Utilities