

**MARSHALL MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**

**75 East Morgan  
Marshall, MO 65340**

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August 3, 2023

The Board of Public Works convened in a regular session in the MMU Service Center Conference Room at 8:30 a.m. Board members present were Steve Mills, President; Chuck Hines, Secretary; and Ken Bryant, Member. Spencer Fricke, Vice President, was absent. Also present was MPUA President and CEO John Twitty.

The agenda was approved on a motion made by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Hines, with a vote of 2-0. The July 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Bryant, with a vote of 2-0.

In business from the audience, MPUA President and CEO John Twitty presented the Electric Distribution Department with an award from the American Public Power Association for Excellence in Reliability for the year 2022.

Electric Distribution Director Doug Root requested approval to accept an alternate model Ditch Witch mini skid steer. When Director Root inquired about the delivery date for the SK800 model ordered in February, the Ditch Witch representative informed him that delivery could be another 45 days or more due to the model having a popular engine and offered an SK900 model as an alternative. The SK900 model is the same size as the SK800, but has a different brand of engine and will have more torque/power, and can lift more weight. The SK900 unit is available for immediate delivery but will cost an additional \$2,042.62, which is still under budget. Mr. Bryant made a motion to accept the Sourcewell bid from Ditch Witch for a new SK900 mini skid steer with trailer and attachments for a difference of \$2,042.62. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hines, and approved by a vote of 2-0.

Director Root updated the Board on several other projects the department is working on. Work on the overhead conversion resumed after the boring machine was fixed. The pole inspections are complete; there were 1,201 poles inspected, 3 labeled as a priority to be replaced immediately, and 38 labeled as rejects that need to be replaced in the future. Poor Boy Tree Service has started spraying for brush control.

Underground Facilities Director Grant Piper reported the new Freightliner tandem cab and chassis dump truck arrived July 26<sup>th</sup>; bids for the dump body and hoist will be sent out later this week. The job-site trailer for the North Street Pump Station project was set and powered, asbestos removal has started, and the Masons will be arriving on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Visu-Sewer has completed the cleaning portion of the cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) project and is scheduling the delivery of the liner. Director Piper answered questions about the main breaks on North English Avenue. He updated the Board on the smoke testing project; a kick-off meeting was held and the field portion will start August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Eric Perkins reported blower #1 had faulted three times over the weekend after the Aerzen tech was here on July 24<sup>th</sup>. He is in contact with Aerzen and Burns & McDonnell to resolve the issue. The return-activated sludge pumps were delivered and installation has begun. He will be taking additional TSS samples in a deeper area of the new aeration basin.

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General Manager Jeff Bergstrom reported for IT & Broadband Director Jim Widel. The fiber crew has installed 35,000 feet of fiber for the first bid of grant #2. The contractor has started on the second bid of grant #2 and is two miles into the project. USDA visited on July 19<sup>th</sup>; Director Widel took them on a tour of the areas being serviced and to watch the fiber be blown in.

General Manager Jeff Bergstrom then reported for Water Treatment Superintendent Travis Boss. He is waiting to hear from contractors about the start dates of the #2 primary basin flocculator repair, the filter media replacement, and the filter influent valve replacement.

Electric Production Director Jarad Muller reported he is still working with Ethos Energy on the unit #6 noise issue. He has done everything recommended, ran it yesterday and although there was improvement there was still noise. All information has been sent to Ethos to get their opinion on the next step, but they did say to be prepared to do a complete overhaul within the next 6 months. Units #10 and #11 ran every day last week. A diaphragm blew on the switching valve of unit #11 and has been repaired. Crews have started installing the circulating water pumps on units #10 and #11 today and Director Muller hopes to test them next week.

General Manager Jeff Bergstrom reported for Human Resources Manager Megan Baldrige stating they have not finalized the succession planning, but have identified a few areas where staffing needs to be added to train personnel so critical skills and institutional knowledge are not lost. He also recognized safety achievements reached by the Wastewater Treatment personnel who have worked thirteen years with no recordable injuries and the IT & Broadband personnel who have worked two years with no recordable injuries.

Controller Tony Bersano presented the third quarter budget financial summary, cash reserve summary, restricted cash account summary, and the third quarter loan balance summary. He is working on finalizing the draft budget and will present it at the next meeting.

General Manager Jeff Bergstrom reported he is working on the time-of-use (TOU) rate project; the TOU meter program has been received and a test is being planned. He is waiting to receive the TOU billing module, and Toth is finalizing the electric rate review. General Manager Bergstrom provided info and projects to DNR for the water infrastructure improvement funds. The lead and copper rule letters and survey are ready to be mailed but will wait until the smoke testing is complete. MSDC held a planning meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>, they plan to start advertising for the Executive Director position in August and they have reviewed WSKF's first draft study of the Junction.

Mr. Hines made a motion to approve and issue warrants from the following funds for cash disbursements to accounts payable.

WATER OPERATING FUND	\$ 457,370.83
ELECTRIC OPERATING FUND	\$ 355,628.35
SEWER REVENUE FUND	\$ 258,656.66
INTERNET OPERATING FUND	\$ 167,457.80
NATURAL GAS OPERATING FUND	\$ 4,094.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,243,208.11</b>

The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and approved with a vote of 2-0.

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The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Following a motion by Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board adjourned the regular meeting at 9:25 a.m. by a vote of 2-0.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
/s/ Chuck Hines, Secretary