

# **WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Water and Light Commission was called to order in the Worthington Public Utilities Conference Room at 7:00 A.M., DST, by President Robert J. Demuth with the following members present: James Elsing, Ron Wood and Gary Hoffmann. Absent was Randy Thompson (excused).

Staff members present were Scott Hain, General Manager; Patrick Demuth, Electric Superintendent; Deb Scheidt, Secretary to the Commission

Others present: None

## **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CLOSURE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hoffmann, seconded by Commissioner Wood and unanimously carried to close the agenda as presented.

## **WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann and unanimously carried to approve the Water and Light Commission minutes of the regular meeting held August 15, 2011.

## **HIGHWAY 60 LIGHTING**

Due to extensive delays in the Highway 60 project attributable to the State of Minnesota shutdown in July, the Commission discussed the pros and cons of possibly rejecting all bids received on June 27, 2011, for the project roadway lighting components and rebidding the project next year. After discussion, the Commission affirmed the action taken at their July 25, 2011, meeting to award the bid to Echo Electric Supply in the amount of \$105,355.00.

## **OWATONNA PUBLIC UTILITIES ELECTRIC AND WATER RATE COMPARISON STUDY**

Scott Hain, General Manager, provided a presentation on the residential, commercial and industrial electric cost comparisons and rankings compiled from the latest study conducted by Owatonna Public Utilities which covers the twelve-month period from July 2010 through June 2011. Based on the information included in the survey, Worthington Public Utilities had the lowest annual electric costs in the residential, commercial and industrial class cost comparisons. Fifteen electric utilities were surveyed including eleven municipal utilities, two rural electric cooperatives and two investor-owned utilities.

Mr. Hain also reviewed the residential, commercial and industrial water rate comparisons from twelve municipal water utilities surveyed by Owatonna Public Utilities. Mr. Hain reported that Worthington was not included in the survey; however, our water rates result in annual costs that fall in the middle when compared to the utilities surveyed.

### **LEWIS AND CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM PROJECT FINANCING**

As a result of reduced federal funding for the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System Project, the Lewis and Clark Board of Directors has been holding discussions on various project financing options. Scott Hain, General Manager, provided the Commission with examples of two financing scenarios prepared by Lewis & Clark staff which included 20 year variable and fixed interest rate loans of \$10 million. The examples were prepared for discussion purposes only.

### **EMPLOYEE SURVEY**

At the July 25, 2011, regular Commission meeting, Commissioner Demuth reported that he had become aware of a local business that provided their employees with an opportunity to participate in a survey where employees ranked the importance of various aspects of their jobs. Commissioner Demuth presented the idea of developing a similar survey to be completed by Worthington Public Utilities (WPU) employees. Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that he requested and received a copy of that survey. Mr. Hain indicated that he and Craig Clark, City Administrator, would work on development of a survey to be provided to employees sometime in the future.

### **PROJECT UPDATE**

Scott Hain, General Manager, provided the Commission with a brief update on various utility projects.

### **MISSOURI RIVER ENERGY SERVICES REGIONAL POLICYMAKERS DINNER AND DISCUSSION**

Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) will be holding their regional policymakers' dinner and discussion at the Dayton House in Worthington on September 21, 2011, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Commission members were asked to state their intentions on attending the dinner and discussion.

### **UTILITY BILLS PAYABLE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann and unanimously carried to approve the utility bills payable totaling \$153,693.64 for August 19, August 26, and September 2, 2011.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hoffmann, seconded by Commissioner Wood and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 A.M., DST. President Demuth declared the meeting adjourned.

Deb A. Scheidt  
Secretary to the Commission