IMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ELECTRIC, WATER AND COMMUNICATIONS UTILITIES

September 13, 2021
5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers
Minutes

The IMU Board of Trustees met in regular session on September 13, 2021 in the City Hall Council Chambers. Chairperson Voigts called the meeting to order and on roll call the following members were present: Deb Richardson, Lesley Forbush, Adam Voigts, Mike Rozga and Lori Smith. Absent: None.

In Public Comment, Margaret Vernon, Indianola Sustainability Committee, asked that their concerns and suggestions be considered during the IMU strategic planning session. She also discussed MEAN's interest in placing solar panels in communities.

Richardson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Smith seconded it. In discussion, Voigts noted the Board needs the formula for calculating rebates, as mentioned in the prior minutes. Question was called for, and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously. The consent agenda was as follows:

A. Approval of Claims for August 31, 2021.
B. Approval of Claims for September 13, 2021.
C. Approval of Minutes of the prior board meeting
D. Approval of the July 2021 financial report.

Electric Superintendent Mike Metcalf reported a new apprentice has started; annual electric meeting testing has been completed; the engineer for the downtown conversion project is obtaining easements and preparing a bid; and staff has located a small leak in the step-up transformer for turbine eight and is getting quotes for repairs.

Rozga moved to approve authorization for Warren Water to serve an IMU customer at 10801 R57 Hwy. Richardson seconded it. Question was called for, and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Lou Elbert, Water Superintendent, reported hydrant flushing and maintenance will begin next week, and restoration will occur for the North 8th Street project in October. Board Member Rozga asked that notification of restoration delays be put on social media, as well as thanks to the neighborhood for the kindness shown to the contractors.

Kurt Ripperger, Telecommunications Superintendent, reported staff would perform ninety installations for September.

General Manager Chris Des Planques explained the LIHEAP and LIHWAP programs.

Smith moved to approve an agreement with IMPACT to administer the Iowa Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Richardson seconded it. Question was called for, and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Richardson moved to approve an agreement with IMPACT to administer the Iowa Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Rozga seconded it. Question was called for, and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Smith moved to approve utility accounts to be written off and to use any customary collection method, including submission to the state offset program, and to charge any applicable collection fees. Richardson seconded it. In discussion, it was noted the write-offs are low compared to historical figures. The Board requested historical comparisons be submitted with future write-off considerations. Question was called for, and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Richardson moved to approve the IMU job descriptions for Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk and Network Support Specialist. Rozga seconded it. In discussion, GM Des Planques stated the job descriptions would be used to post job openings and that the Board had approved previous job descriptions. The AP/Payroll position is adding payroll duties to the current AP position, with a higher pay grade. The Network Specialist is a new position. Question was called for, and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Richardson moved to approve the safety consulting services renewal with TrueNorth. Smith seconded it.GM Des Planques noted that staff recommends approval. Question was called for, and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

General Manager Des Planques stated the audit would begin soon and the Board is encouraged to share any questions or concerns with the auditors prior to it beginning. Voigts asked that staff follow up with the auditor and then the Board about how best to communicate prior to the start of the audit. Denman and Company will give a post-audit presentation to the Board.

At 6:16 p.m. Rozga moved to enter into closed session in accordance with Iowa Code Section 388.9(1) to discuss marketing and pricing strategies and proprietary information of the telecommunications division whose competitive position will be harmed by public disclosure that is not required of potential or actual competitors and no public purpose is served by such disclosure. Richardson seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Richardson, Forbush, Voigts, Rozga, Smith. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

At 7:14 p.m. Rozga moved to exit the closed session and Richardson seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Richardson, Forbush, Voigts, Rozga, Smith. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. on a motion by Rozga and seconded by Richardson.

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Adam Voigts, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Jackie Raffety, Deputy Clerk