INDIANOLA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
IMU
Electric • Communications • Water

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

March 28, 2022
5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers
Minutes

The Indianola Municipal Utilities Board met in regular session at 5:30 PM on March 28, 2022 in the City Hall Council Chambers. Chairperson Lori Smith called the meeting to order and on roll call the following members were present: Deb White, Lesley Forbush (via Zoom), Lori Smith and Mike Rozga. Absent: Adam Voigts.

No public comments were offered.

Board member Adam Voigts arrived at 5:31 PM.

Rozga moved to approve the Consent Agenda. White seconded it. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Agenda was as follows:

- Approval of Minutes of the prior meeting.
- Approval of claims for March 29, 2022.

Voigts moved to approve IMU's reliability plan and White seconded it. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Smith opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed electric utility rates. IMU General Manager Chris DesPlanques gave a presentation in regards to the proposed electric utility rate increase. Board members asked DesPlanques for clarification on line items. The presentation included varying percents of increases before agreeing on a 4.9% increase. No other public comments were offered. Chairperson Smith closed the Public Hearing.

Voigts moved to approve Resolution 2022-017 approving electric utility rates. Rozga seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: White, Forbush, Smith, Rozga and Voigts. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Electric Superintendent Mike Metcalf reported that the new truck is ready for delivery. Metcalf also reported purchasing new safety tools as well as going out for bids in the future for transformers.

Chairperson Smith opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed water utility rate increase. General Manager DesPlanques gave a presentation in regards to the proposed water rate increase. Board members asked DesPlanques for clarification on line items. No public comments were offered. The Chairperson closed the Public Hearing.

White moved to approve Resolution 2022-018 setting water utility rates. Voigts seconded it. On roll call the vote was AYES: Forbush, Smith, Rozga, Voigts and White. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Water Superintendent Lou Elbert reported that Well 11 was pumping less. Elbert is working with a service provider to get that repaired.

Michael Maloney of D.A. Davidson gave a presentation on financial feasibility for a fiber transport route between Indianola and Pella. During his presentation, he discussed the long-term benefits of leasing versus owning the lines and the return on investment.

Communications Superintendent Kurt Ripperger gave further details on each of the grant agreements with the State of Iowa.

White moved to approve Resolution 2022-019 approving a 28E Agreement between the City of Pella and Indianola Municipal Utilities. Rozga seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Smith, Rozga, Voigts, White. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Forbush until there is an attorney. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion passed.

Rozga moved to approve Resolution 2022-020 approving the Notice of Funding Availability #007 Grant Agreement Number 433551 with the State of Iowa in the amount of $137,082.24. Voigts seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Voigts, White, Forbush, Smith, Rozga. NAYS: None.

Voigts moved to approve Resolution 2022-021 approving the Notice of Funding Availability #007 Grant Agreement Number 433553 with the State of Iowa in the amount of $477,025.20. White seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: White, Forbush, Smith, Rozga, Voigts. NAYS: None.

Chairperson Smith opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Communication Utility rate increase. General Manager DesPlanques presented the proposed Communication Utility rate increases. Board Members asked the General Manager to explain some of the line items further. There were no other public comments offered. Chairperson Smith closed the Public Hearing.

White moved to approve Resolution 2022-022 amending Municipal Communications Utility Commercial Rates and Charges. Rozga seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Forbush, Smith, Rozga, Voigts, White. NAYS: None.

Rozga moved to approve Resolution 2022-023 adopting Municipal Communications Utility Rates and Charges. White seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Voigts, White, Forbush, Smith, Rozga. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Ripperger reported that crews are working on installing the drops that were done over the winter months.

DesPlanques was seeking discussion and direction on the IMU Conference room in regards to video equipment. There was discussion about concerns that Board Members had but determined they would like DesPlanques to do additional research and report back in one month.

The Board directed DesPlanques to move forward with scheduling a meeting with the City Council and Holmes Murphy regarding health insurance renewals.

Chairperson Smith provided an update on IMU's response to Mayor Pepper and the City Council's allegations that were made in November 2021. Chairperson Smith stated that there would be a press release posted on March 29, 2022, to IMU's website. The goal going forward is to have better lines of communication. Rozga and Voigts mentioned how they felt about the allegations and urged Council members and the City Mayor to reach out to them with questions moving forward. Chairperson Smith also stated to the public to feel free to contact any board members to allow them to openly communicate on current issues.

DesPlanques provided an update on the Solar Project, Senate File 2321 and proposals for legal services.

Chairperson Smith invited Board Members to attend the City Manager candidate meet and greet to be held on April 1, 2022.

Board Member Rozga moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM. White seconded it. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Lori Smith, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jackie Raffety, City Clerk