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

August 8, 2022
5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers
110 N 1st Street
Minutes

Call to Order

The Indianola Municipal Utilities Board of Trustees met in regular session at 5:30 PM on August 8, 2022, in the City Hall Council Chambers. Chairperson Lori Smith called the meeting to order and on roll call the following members were present: Dom Selgrade, Deb White, Lori Smith, Mike Rozga, Adam Voigts. Absent: None.

Public Comment

There were no public comments offered.

Consent Agenda:

Finance and HR Director Chris Longer stated the June Financial Reports show revenues and expenses for the end of the fiscal year. Some expenses are less than budgeted due to supply chain issues; the expenses will now occur in FY23 so a budget amendment will be necessary. The Board directed staff to provide more information on the reason for the electric operating fund balance increase to be higher than the budgeted amount.

White moved to approve the consent agenda and Selgrade 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 August 8, 2022 Claims
- Approval of the June 2022 Financial Reports
- Approval of Minutes of the prior board meetings

Electric Utility Informational Items

Electric Department Superintendent Mike Metcalf stated the electric department experienced peak usage last week not seen since 2012 due to the hot weather. Metcalf updated the Board on Turbines 7 and 8 and the annual IUB inspection. The Board advised staff to purchase diesel fuel as necessary for operations.

Water Utility Informational Items

Lou Elbert, Water Superintendent, discussed water main breaks in construction areas, carbon dioxide supply chain issues and annual inspections. The Board asked staff to provide more information about the water main breaks, costs, and customer impact at the next meeting.

Communications Utility Informational Items
Kurt Ripperger, Telecommunications Director, reported that installation requests remain steady; staff is performing outside plant work; and gave an update on the transport line project. He noted that he will start having weekly meetings with Pella and the engineer on this project to work out the finer details. Ripperger also stated there were some issues with TV signals that might have been due to activity at the National Balloon Classic overriding transmission because dates and times were similar to when events were happening at the field.

Combined Electric, Water and Communications Action Items
Chairperson Smith opened the public hearing on a proposal to enter into one or more communication revenue and refunding loan agreements. No public comments were offered. The Chairperson then closed the public hearing.

Mike Maloney, D.A. Davidson, (via Zoom) stated the proposed resolution is an administrative step in order to take any additional action and allows IMU to borrow up to $12,200,000. At the August 22 board meeting, final action will be taken.

Voigts moved to approve Resolution 2022-036 determining to proceed with entering into one or more communication revenue and refunding loan agreements and taking additional action thereon. Rozga seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Selgrade, White, Smith, Rozga, Voigts. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

General Manager Chris Des Planques stated door access control improvements and upgrades are necessary at the Customer Service Center in order to allow for better security.

White moved to approve a quote from Communication Innovators in the amount of $16,406 for door access control at the Customer Service Center. Selgrade seconded it. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Rozga 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. White seconded it. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Des Planques recommended an additional three percent across the board salary increase for all employees in order to stay comparable and consistent with City actions. He noted the cost is about $95,000 and recommends taking it out of reserves for the first year. He has approached the union about an MOU for this increase.

City Manager Ben Reeves stated discussions on a shared services agreement between IMU and City regarding HR duties has begun.

Rozga moved to approve Resolution 2022-037 setting the salaries for appointed officers and union employees of the Indianola Municipal Utilities for the period beginning June 19, 2022. White seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Selgrade, White, Smith, Rozga, Voigts. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Rozga moved to approve Resolution 2022-038 setting the salaries for appointed officers and employees of the Indianola Municipal Utilities for the period beginning June 19, 2022. White seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Selgrade, White, Smith, Rozga, Voigts. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

In the Strategic Plan Review discussion, Des Planques outlined the priorities each department will be focusing on: underground projects for the electric department; capital planning and funding for the water department; technology needs for the telecommunications department; and marketing and messaging improvements, and joint projects with the City are other priorities. The Board directed staff to also include a timeline of progress and note any roadblocks or challenges to completing the goals.

Combined Electric, Water and Communications Informational Items

Des Planques stated the August 22 meeting will start immediately following the adjournment of a joint meeting with the City, which will start at 5:30 p.m. Department managers will give a highlight of their capital projects in order to help with the budgeting process.

He also provided an update on the agenda for the next MEAN meeting and the Solar Project. The Board requested the Solar Project contract be brought for approval soon.

The Board also discussed opportunities to educate the public on electric usage and the affect that has on utility bills. Des Planques reminded users to call the customer service representatives with usage questions and to learn how to save energy.

Other Business

Voigts moved to enter into closed session at 6:50 p.m. 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. White seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Selgrade, White, Smith, Rozga, Voigts. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Selgrade at 7:32 p.m. and seconded by White to exit the closed session. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Selgrade, White, Smith, Rozga, Voigts. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken on items discussed in the closed session.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. on a motion by Voigts and seconded by White. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

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Lori Smith, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Jackie Raffety, City Clerk