

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF WATER, ELECTRIC,
AND COMMUNICATIONS TRUSTEES
OF THE CITY OF MUSCATINE, IOWA
MARCH 29, 2022 – 5:30 P.M.**

The Board of Trustees met in regular session at Muscatine Power and Water's Administration/Operations Building, 3205 Cedar Street, Muscatine, Iowa, on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Steven Bradford called the meeting to order. Additional members of the Board present were as follows: Trustees Susan Eversmeyer, Kevin Fields, Tracy McGinnis, and Keith Porter.

Also present were Gage Huston, General Manager of Muscatine Power and Water (MPW); Brenda Christensen, Board Secretary; Erika Cox, Brandy Olson, Mark Roberts, Ryan Streck, and Doug White of MPW. Additional guests included customers David Hotle (Muscatine Journal), Charles Potter, and Sandy Stanley. Jessica Bracket was also present.

There were no public comments.

Trustee McGinnis moved, seconded by Trustee Eversmeyer, to approve the February 22, 2022 Audit/Finance Committee meeting minutes and regular Board meeting minutes. All Trustees voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Fields moved, seconded by Trustee McGinnis, to ratify payments totaling \$8,068,650.32 for the Electric Utility, \$362,040.86 for the Water Utility, and \$978,505.00 for the Communications Utility, for a cumulative total of \$9,409,196.18. All Trustees voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Huston introduced the topic of Communications Utility Revenue Adjustment. He stated the Communications Utility 2022 Budget included an adjustment of 5.8%. Staff is recommending the adjustment stay at 5.8% even though the current estimated rate adjustment needed to accommodate the 7.4% increase in total programming costs is 5.9%, with some major contracts for 2022 still to be negotiated. Mr. Huston reviewed MPW costs versus other video providers' costs, MPW Basic and Select package cost details, and common and streaming service costs. He noted MPW prices are either in line with or less than our direct satellite competition and competitive with streaming services when all prices are considered. After additional discussion, the following resolution was submitted:

RESOLUTION 22-06

WHEREAS, review of the financial condition of the Communications Utility has been completed and reviewed with the Board of Water, Electric, and Communications Trustees for its consideration; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed this information and determined a revenue adjustment is necessary to keep the Communications Utility in a sound financial condition; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Water, Electric, and Communications Trustees of the City of Muscatine, Iowa, effective May 1, 2022, the price for MPW TV Basic service shall be \$24.99 per month and Select service shall be \$87.99 per month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Broadcast Surcharge shall be \$19.95; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Regional Sports Charge for Select service shall be \$6.89; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the General Manager of Muscatine Power and Water shall continue to be responsible for approving tier pricing, premium services, equipment fees, promotional packages, and discounts to assure financial viability of the Communications Utility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, proper notice be given to consumers in accordance with the terms of the contracts, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Iowa State Code.

Trustee Porter moved, seconded by Trustee Eversmeyer, said resolution should be passed, approved, and adopted on this 29th day of March 2022. On roll call, Trustees Porter, Fields, McGinnis, Eversmeyer, and Bradford voted aye. Voting nay, none. Resolution carried.

Mr. Huston introduced a recommendation to authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with BNSF Railway for coal transportation. He reminded the Board MPW has rail contracts with both BNSF Railway and CP Railways. He continued the BNSF Railway contract terminates at the end of 2022 and discussions between MPW and BNSF are underway, with probable savings from this contract under the current contract rate. Mr. Roberts reviewed a presentation providing more contract details. Trustee Fields moved, seconded by Trustee Eversmeyer, to authorize the General Manager to enter a contract through December 31, 2028 with BNSF for coal transportation at an initial cost at or below current costs. All Trustees voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Huston introduced the following resolution requesting the Muscatine Mayor and City Council designate the week of May 1-7, 2022 as Drinking Water Week:

RESOLUTION 22-07
DRINKING WATER WEEK
May 1-7, 2022

WHEREAS, the Board of Water, Electric, and Communications Trustees of the City of Muscatine, Iowa wish to recognize its customers and employees during Drinking Water Week; and,

WHEREAS, water is our most valuable natural resource; and,

WHEREAS, Muscatine's municipal water supply provides many benefits to the community, including supporting public health, providing fire protection, supporting our economy, and sustaining the quality of life we enjoy; and,

WHEREAS, MPW provides our homes, businesses, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient and low-cost water services; employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at the lowest possible rate; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees request the Mayor and City Council designate the week of May 1-7, 2022, as Drinking Water Week in Muscatine, in order to honor MPW, its employees who work together to provide the best possible water services; and its consumer-owners, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Muscatine has joined hands with other communities across the nation to celebrate the benefits of a consumer-owned water utility for our local and national progress.

Trustee McGinnis moved, seconded by Trustee Fields, said resolution should be passed, approved, and adopted on this 29th day of March 2022. On roll call, Trustees Porter, Fields, McGinnis, Eversmeyer, and Bradford voted aye. Voting nay, none. Resolution carried.

In the February GM Report, Mr. Huston updated the Board on the following topics:

- The Video Stream Project Summary Form for the Wilton streaming service approved at the February 2022 Board meeting was cancelled due to Wilton choosing a different delivery service option than MPW service;
- A video, created by Muscatine Community College highlighting a student's education experience at MCC, included a portion about his work experience on a special project with the MPW Helpdesk;
- Customer experiences with solar developers on home installations and what MPW is doing to help customers be more informed.

Ms. Cox also noted MPW will be hosting customers on June 18, 2022 for a Customer Appreciation Day and reviewed some of the activities being planned.

The January Financial highlights and Financial Results Summary were reviewed by Mr Roberts. There were no entries on the Competitive Quotes for Public Improvements Report.

Mr. Huston reviewed the Monthly Project Status Report and Variance Analysis reports.

Mr. Huston reviewed the February 2022 Departmental Reports, and Mr. White reviewed the Powering the Future section of the departmental reports and provided a presentation on options MPW is considering to fill the open positions of the power portfolio.

Jessica Brackett provided a public comment.

Trustee Eversmeyer moved, seconded by Trustee McGinnis, to receive and place on file the March 2022 Utility Reports. All Trustees voted aye. Motion carried.

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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THE CITY OF MUSCATINE, IOWA



Brenda Christensen
Board Secretary