

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF April 1, 2010**

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Canfield at 5:33 p.m. Present were Hall, Johnston, Beachum and Chairman Canfield. Also present were Mayor Hodges, General Manager Pierce and Administrative Manager Sawka. Board member Valentine has accepted a position in Texas and had resigned his LLP Board position earlier in the month leaving a vacancy on the Board.
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Beachum made a motion to approve the agenda and Hall supported. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2010:** Beachum made a motion to approve the board minutes of March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and Johnston supported. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS (items not on the agenda):** Mayor Hodges commented that the Lowell Expo went very well. The Mayor also informed the Board that Jim Valentine had responded to the LLP Board opening and his appointment would be recommended to the City Council.
- V. ACTION ITEMS:**
- A. Operating Policy 2-12:** Pierce presented the board with a revised Operating Policy 2-12 "Person(s) wishing to appear before the Board of Light and Power". Hall noted a grammatical correction and made a motion to approve the revised policy as amended. Johnston supported. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.
- B. Strategic Planning:** Pierce commented on a couple changes that were made to the Strategic Planning document and described where the Board had made some basic changes to the goals. A new goal, "Owning our own backup generation" was added to the plan. Pierce indicated the next step was to align action items with the Goals and to provide staff input regarding objectives that would move toward insuring the goals are achieved.

Johnston commented that customer service education should be added to the action items list. Beachum questioned if demolition of the line shack is an action item? Pierce responded no, merely determining the potential cost for demolition was the action item listed. Beachum made a motion to accept the revised Strategic Plan with additions and Johnston supported. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

## **VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**A. Performance Data:** Pierce commented that the utility had a good month. The residential sales are down a little, but the commercial sales and usage are up. He discussed a trending analysis he had been working on that showed the change in electric usage on a twelve month rolling average basis. The report tracks the percentage change in overall usage for a twelve month period. Pierce noted the trend has been positive for the last couple of months which is the first time in nearly two years. The utility is starting to show that perhaps the downward trend has bottomed out and we are starting a recovery.

The customer count is still down but hopefully that trend will start to change as well. The collectable outstanding balances were lower this month and cash investments (Paine Webber and the trust fund) are showing improvements; an overall 17.6% increase in cash over last year at this time.

Beachum asked for a benevolence fund and tree fund breakdown, and asked if we still contributed to these funds. Pierce responded that we do contribute when it is appropriate. Beachum requested more current information on the funds and their breakdowns.

Pierce reported the utility only had two outages in February. One was planned the other one was not.

**B. Income Statement (February 2010):** Pierce reported that overall the sales revenue was a little under budget for the month, but still good year to date. A billing error made in January was discovered in

February and is what caused the negative number in the Commercial Sales for the month.

Canfield questioned the security light budget being off; Pierce commented that it was an error in the budget.

The utility is slightly over budget in distribution expenses but still five percent under budget in total operating expenses. The bottom line is that we are still showing a healthy Operating and Net income for the year.

**C. Manager's report:**

- Pierce remarked that the purchase power agreements between Granger and MPPA are moving forward. He also informed the Board of three upcoming conferences and asked if any Board member would be interested in attending. The board discussed having Pierce go with a City Council member to the Economic Development Conference in Indianapolis. Two of our linemen attended the annual lineman rodeo and both found it very informative and an enjoyable experience. Next year we would hope to have a team entered in the apprentice division.
- Pierce is still looking into Travel and Travel expense policies. The Board Membership document is finished and will go on the website.
- Lowell Light and Power received another National Safety Award from APPA, a Second place plaque recognizing our outstanding safety record.
- The EO results have been verified. The utility exceeded our plan. Only a couple of goals weren't met. The Board expressed concern with the time and money spent to execute this state mandated program. Johnston suggested we cut off programs after the minimum goal is met so we can keep costs down.
- Pierce will present a final budget for 2010-2011 at the May board meeting for approval.
- The Expo was a great success. Many customers stopped by the booth/bucket truck and many questions were answered.
- To date LLP has collected \$470.00 from customers for APLUS which has been matched by the utility. When you add the

\$1000 contribution from City, the total is \$1940.00. The amount used to help customers with their electric and/or water bills has been \$598.00. Perry suggested that the utility push for donations in spring and fall when bills are lower.

- The January payables were distributed and no questions were asked.

**D. Schedule of Meeting:** There is not a schedule of meetings yet.

**E. Complaint Register:** No new complaints.

**VII. Date of Next Scheduled LLP Board Meeting:** The next scheduled LLP board meeting will be May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**VIII. Board Comment:** Beachum expressed an interest in gathering a “wish list” of items needing to be looked at. He asked that all board members create a list from which to generate discussion around potential projects. He also questioned if we would service the new building next to Lowell Lanes. Hall would like us to talk to Dan DesJarden about a chipper.

**IX. Adjournment:** There was a motion by Perry to adjourn and supported by Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

---

CHAIRMAN, GREG CANFIELD

---

DATE