

TELL CITY ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
November 16, 2021

The Tell City Electric Department Board of Directors met at 4:00 P.M. All members were present. Mr. Land presided.

General Manager Andy Hicks was in attendance as was Paige Schank for the Department. No further guests were in attendance.

The Agenda was presented to the Board in written form. Mr. Land added Finance 101 Presentation under Section 5, Finance Matters – V. A motion was made by Mr. Poole and seconded by Mr. Daum to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion passed 6-0.

Minutes from the October 19, 2021 meeting were presented in written form. Being no corrections, Mr. Kohnert made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Poole seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Committees

Human Resources: Mr. Theis started with the Department as an Apprentice Lineperson on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Hicks noted he is doing well in the position and is eager to learn. The two open Lead Lineman positions were given to Josh Knepper and Brandon Tabor.

Mr. Hicks recommended to the Board that the positions of Operations Supervisor and Technical Service Supervisor move from salaried positions back to hourly positions. He said it is unusual for positions such as these to be salary in the utility industry. These positions, if moved to hourly, would not be on the call out rotation but would only attend call outs as needed in emergency situations. The Department would monitor the overtime received by the positions and suggestion additional guidelines if needed in the future. Mr. Hicks noted he spoke with the persons currently in both positions and they are in agreeance with the change, if the Board approves. Motion to move the Operations Supervisor and Technical Service Supervisor positions back to hourly positions was made by Mr. Daum and seconded by Mr. Malone. Motion passed 6-0.

Financial Matters: The Financial Reports, Working Fund Report, Liquidity Report and Docket were presented and discussed. Mr. Malone motioned to approve the reserve transfers to the four reserve accounts: \$55,500.00 to the Operating Reserve, \$11,250.00 to the Expansion Reserve, \$1,700.00 to the Waupaca Substation Reserve and \$9,993.47 to the Loan Liquidation Reserve and the Docket. Mr. Kohnert seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Schank presented the “Finance 101” presentation to the Board. Topics within the presentation included financial reporting, billing and rate structures, reserves, work order accounting, and funding. The full presentation is included in the Board Materials binder.

Strategic Planning: Mr. Hicks noted that Christmas lights are going up around town. Mr. Malone made the motion to donate the electricity used by the street Christmas lights. Mr. Poole seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Current Business

a. Power Supply Report: A copy of the monthly report was distributed. The Department's cost per kWh in September is \$0.072031. Jasper's is \$0.0837700, Huntingburg's is \$0.0859520 and Troy's is \$0.0802030. A monthly comparison of charges from TCED and SIP to Waupaca Foundry Inc. was presented for the Board's review for the month of October consumption. TCED's cost to Waupaca for the October consumption (due in November) invoice was higher than SIP's charge to Waupaca by approximately \$50,000.

b. TCED Communications Towers: The Department has reached out to the Chief Operating Officer of Watch Communications (formerly Q-Wireless) regarding the Windward Heights tower. Watch Communications is still in the process of removing their customers from the tower. They failed to provide their customer 30 days' notice via certified mail until the beginning of November. They will be in contact to schedule removal of their equipment in December. The Water Department will begin placing their AMI hardware on the tower at the 4H Fairgrounds in the upcoming weeks. The Department is working with the City Attorney to draft a transfer between the Departments for the rights to the tower. The Department has also reached out to inform the contacts at the 4H Fairgrounds and PSC of the exchange. There is no update at this time if the Water Department will be utilizing TCED's AMI fiber network.

c. 5 Year System Study Results: The Department is waiting on the approval of the TCED 2022 Budget by the City Council before moving forward with contacting the engineering firm.

d. IMPA Contract Extension: No change from prior meeting. Mr. Hicks expects IMPA to present the extension to the City Council at the beginning of 2022.

#### New Business

a. Cost of Service Study: The Department reached out to John Wolfram of Catalyst Consulting for the cost of service/rate study to be performed in 2022 per the Board's recommendation at the October 2021 meeting. Mr. Wolfram informed the Department that he scaled his practice back during the initial COVID outbreak and focuses on cooperatives and a handful of investor-owned FERC transmission cases. Mr. Wolfram highly recommended Larry Feltner, with The Prime Group as his rate models are very much in line with Catalyst Consulting. The two have worked together in the past and often collaborate together in recent years. The Board suggested the Department reach out to see if Mr. Wolfram would be able to share his prior work with Mr. Feltner to ensure consistency within the studies. Mr. Malone made the motion to approve Larry Feltner with The Prime Group to perform the cost of service/rate study for TCED in the year 2022. Mr. Daum seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

b. Transfer of \$119,921.72 from the Loan Liquidation Reserve to Regular Checking Account for AMI loan payment: Transfer of funds is needed to pay the annual AMI loan payment due in December. The balance of the account, after the November transfer as approved at this meeting, is the total balance due for the December 2021 payment. After the December 2021 payment is made to German American, the balance of the loan will stand at \$520,196.81. Motion to transfer the funds was given by Mr. Kohnert and seconded by Mr. Poole. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Other Business

Mr. Land noted that next City Council meeting is on December 6, 2021 with the 2022 TCED Budget being on the agenda. He suggested Board members be in attendance if possible. Mr. Hicks noted that he met with the Mayor, Councilmember Kleeman, and Mr. Badger of the Water Department

regarding their concerns for the timing of TCED's work at the well fields. They are wanting to go from one meter for all six wells to one meter for each individual well. It was noted that the transformer needed was ordered back in July 2021, but isn't set for delivery until early 2022. The lead time for transformers is out of TCED's control.

There being no other business, Mr. Daum made a motion at 4:48 P.M. to adjourn. Mr. Poole seconded; the motion passed 6-0.



J.B. Land, Chairman



Bob Kohnert, Secretary

