Board Meeting December 17, 2024

The Milford Municipal Utilities Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 3:00 P.M. in the Community Center Board Room. In attendance were Board Members Kevin Wharton, Todd Johnson, and Kirb Walters; General Manager Brad Willemssen; Utility Employee Lindsay Radunz. Also in attendance were Bolton & Menk Engineer Josh Pope; City of Milford Mayor Steve Anderson; City of Milford City Administrator LeAnn Reinsbach; West Okoboji City Administrator Carol Chicoine. Board Member Kae Hoppe was absent.

Vice Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order.

Wharton/Walters made a motion to approve the amended agenda removing agenda item 5. Motion passed unanimously.

Wharton/Walters made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously. The following bills were presented for payment:

Ahlers & Cooney, P.C.	Legal	8,599.00
Base	Cafeteria Monthly	30.00
Bolton & Menk, Inc.	Engineering	30,620.50
Bomgaars	Distribution	49.99
Border States Electric Supply	Inventory	4,661.95
Card Service Center	Postage, Locating	123.41
City Laundering Company	Rugs	78.30
City of Milford	Subcontractor	1,880.34
City of Milford	City Sewer, Storm Sewer, CC Fee	52,647.38
Cooperative Energy Company	Fuel	524.32
Cooperative Response Center, Inc.	On Call Phone Service	598.30
Dairyland Power Cooperative	Statement Printing	1,622.85
DGR and Associates Company	Engineering	14,861.88
Dickinson County Recycling Ctr	Appliance Disposal	25.00
Hawkins, Inc.	Chemicals	7,475.45
Heller Enterprises, LLC	Equipment Rental	100.00
Iowa One Call	Locates	1,624.50
Iowa Utilities Commission	IUC/OCA Industry Direct Assessment	2,172.00
Itron, Inc.	Software and Hardware Maintenance	1,909.90
Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, Inc.	Legal	478.10
John T. Jones Construction Co.	Payment Request #13 - WTP	869,493.58
Karian Peterson Power Line Contracting, LLC	Electric Distribution Payment Request #9	58,810.70
Lakes Lawn LLC	Lawn Care	853.35
LESLIE A KRAUSE	CREDIT REFUNDS - 18017	433.40
Milford Electric, Inc.	Gnerator Repair	1,912.44
National Benefit Services, LLC	Employee Benefits	9.00
NEW Cooperative, Inc.	Fuel	127.38
Office of Auditor of State	Audit Filing Fee	425.00
Performance Car & Truck	Work Blade Light Bar	596.10
Professional Computer Solutions, LLC	Computer Hosting Fees	1,058.00
Professional Computer Solutions, LLC	Annual Contract	22,843.00
R & D Industries, Inc.	Computer Contract	1,024.15
Resco	Distribution Improvement Project Materials	317.17
Sam Wedeking Excavating, Inc.	Subcontractor	2,257.72
State Hygienic Laboratory	Lab Testing	79.00
Storey Kenworthy	Office Supplies	201.62

Stuart C. Irby Co.	Inventory & Distribution	5,222.00
Sunshine Foods	Office Supplies	69.76
Tantalus Systems Inc.	Software Annual Maintenance & Hosting Fees	18,879.00
Terracon Consultants, Inc.	WTP Project - Geotechnical Inspection	10,465.50
The Accurate Court Reporter	Subscription	156.00
Tiger Pride Lawn Care	Pest Control	90.00
True Value - Milford	Supplies	427.50
Utility Equipment Company	Distribution	1,896.83
Winther, Stave & Co., LLP	Audit Fees	6,000.00
Aflac	Employee Funded Benefit AFLAC	606.72
Aspire	Employee Funded Benefit	345.00
Aspire	Employee Funded Benefit	345.00
Base	FSA Claim	1,918.00
Base	FSA Claim	50.00
Black Hills Energy	Gas Service	120.99
Collection Services Center	Employee Withholding	184.61
Collection Services Center	Employee Withholding	184.61
Department of Energy	WAPA	30,437.59
Internal Revenue Service	Fica, Med, FWH 11.29.24	7,781.54
Internal Revenue Service	Fica, Med 12.6.24	688.40
Internal Revenue Service	Fica, Med, FWH 12.13.24	8,044.50
Iowa Department of Revenue	Monthly Sales & Use Tax	7,893.40
Iowa Department of Revenue	Monthly WET Tax	11,380.35
Iowa Department of Revenue	Monthly Wihholding	4,244.00
IPERS	Nov 24 IPERS	15,643.26
MidAmerican Energy	Neal 4	16,000.00
Milford Communications	Phone	400.40
MMU	Utilities	3,855.79
MMU - Investment Fund	Oct 2024 EUSC Transfer	113,178.23
MMU-Medical Insurance Account	Nov 24 FSA Transfer	1,257.93
NIMECA	Power Bill	43,058.88
NIMECA	Employee Benefits	290.01
Principal Life	Employee Benefit	512.83
Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company	Employee Benefit	394.59
United Community Bank	Loan Payment	7,883.11
United Community Bank	Water Meter Loan Payment	7,637.09
United Community Bank	Electric Distribution Loan Payment	31,938.41
Verizon Wireless	Phone Data - 3 Collector Boxes	75.08
Verizon Wireless	Phone	353.13
Wellmark	Employee Benefit	14,846.15

Public Hearing on Electric Rates

Vice Chairperson Johnson opened the public hearing at 3:08 p.m. No comments were provided to the office prior to the hearing. Comments were made during the public hearing by Mayor Anderson. Anderson asked who did the engineering and if an outside financial or legal counsel looked at the rates. He would like financial and legal to look at it because of trust issues based on the last presentation of the proposed rates. Manager Willemssen responded that DGR was the engineer and that MMU did not have outside financial or an additional legal firm look at the rates, beyond our normal attorney. Anderson expressed that in addition to the ongoing trust issues between the City and Utilities, he feels that Manager Willemssen lied to the board, city and public at the last public hearing. This is based on Willemssen saying the rates were suggested by the engineer, but then now the street light meter rate does not have the large increase; so, he wondered how that happened if the engineer really suggested it.

Anderson wondered why action had not been taken against the manager and why he was still in his position when he lied. Willemssen responded that it was not an intentional lie. It was how he interpreted the engineer's suggestion and upon further review, the change was made. The Board listened and feel that the rates have appropriately been evaluated for this increase. Vice Chairperson Johnson closed the public hearing at 3:15 p.m.

Milford Municipal Utilities Business

1. Review and approval of the Audit Report

   Carol Sporrer from Winther, Stave, & Company presented the audit report for year ending June 30, 2024. Wharton/Walters made a motion to approve the Audit Report. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible approval of WTP Payment Request #13

   Wharton/Walters made a motion to approve the WTP Payment Request #13 of $869,493.58. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible approval of the 2024 Electric Distribution Payment Request #9

   Wharton/Walters made a motion to approve the 2024 Electric Distribution Payment Request #9 of $58,810.70. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible approval of Resolution 2024-12-01-Adopting New Electric Rates Applicable to Customers of Milford Municipal Utilities

   Wharton/Walters made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-12-01. Roll call vote: Ayes – Wharton, Johnson, Walters. Nays – None. Absent – Hoppe. Motion passed unanimously.

Items discussed in the Manager's Report:

1. The A34 Reconstruction project has been shut down for the season. Beck Excavating will return in the Spring of 2025 to complete the project. MMU's work on this project is complete.
2. The majority of the work for the Electric Distribution project has been completed. Karian Peterson will follow up with punch list items and will return in the spring to complete the project.
3. For the Electric Substation project, **t**he circuit interrupter has been delayed to April. Willemssen has asked DGR to give a summary of the situation with the delay in delivery of the transformer and circuit interrupter.
4. An update was given on the WTP project. JTJ has been working in all areas of the project. They have also poured the cap on the CCT, the pump room floor, and part of the Clearwell. The footings of the lab area and garage have been poured. The mason will start on the walls of the lab and chemical rooms. The current plan is to set the precast in February.

The Board of Trustees adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Milford Municipal Utilities Board of Trustees will be January 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

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Todd Johnson, Vice Chairperson

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Kevin Wharton, Board Secretary