

**LAMAR UTILITIES BOARD
MINUTES OF THE UTILITIES BOARD MEETING
September 29, 2020**

The Lamar Utilities Board met in regular session in the Utilities Board Room at 12:01 p.m. with Chairman Thrall presiding.

Present: Jay Brooke, Doug Thrall, Patrick Leonard, Clifford Boxley, Roger Stagner, Kirk Crespin, Houssin Hourieh, Lisa Denman, Leala Owen, Linda Williams
Don Steerman by phone

Absent:

Minutes of Previous Meeting – September 15, 2020

Boardmember Boxley moved and Boardmember Stagner seconded to approve meeting minutes of September 15, 2020 with correction of approval of previous meeting to be August 25, 2020 not August 11, 2020.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Boxley, Stagner

Voting No: None

Updated Cost of Service and Rate Design Presentation by Andrew Ross of NMPP Energy

Andrew Ross, Director of retail utility services and member relations of NMPP Energy gave an in-depth report of the 2020 Cost of Service and Rate Design Study. He presented three possibilities: 1) 5-year plan beginning in 2021 with a 1.4% rate increase annually. 2) 5-year plan beginning in 2022 with a 1.4% rate increase annually. 3) 5-year plan beginning in 2022 with a 1.8% rate increase annually. Proposed schedule of rates and Cost of Service Performa were given to all members to review as being presented.

He also presented a bill comparison for residential, general service small & large, and irrigation for existing versus proposed rates both 1.4% and 1.8%.

Public Hearing: Proposed Modifications to Electric Rate Schedule

Chairman Thrall requested to open Public Hearing for Proposed Modifications to Electric Rate Schedule.

Boardmember Stagner moved and Boardmember Brooke seconded to open the public hearing for Proposed Modifications to Electric Rate Schedule at 12:43 p.m.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Boxley, Stagner

Voting No: None

Chairman Thrall provided an opening statement for the rate hearing which included publication of the public notice. He stated that the Board Attorney submitted the following documents into public record.

1. Notice of the proposed rate modifications that were published in the Lamar Ledger and Prowers Journal.
2. An affidavit signed by Superintendent Hourieh testifying that the notifications were published thirty days prior to the public hearing.
3. The proposed schedule of rates applicable to all customer classes across the Lamar Utility Board Service Territory.
4. A copy of the final Cost of Service and Rate Design Study.

Andrew Ross, Director of retail utility services and member relations of NMPP Energy again gave a brief report of the 2020 Cost of Service and Rate Design Study.

Chairman Thrall asked for Superintendent Hourieh to testify. Superintendent Hourieh provided testimony for rate hearing.

Chairman Thrall opened the floor to those that would like to speak in favor of or against proposed modification to electric rate schedule.

Received zero comments for or against proposed modification to electric rate schedule. Rick Jones asked if this would include an increase to irrigation rates. Response to question was yes, this includes all types of electric rates.

Chairman Thrall thanked everyone for their participation in the public hearing and the Board will review the information presented and render a decision at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on October 13, 2020.

Chairman Thrall requested a motion to close Public Hearing for Proposed Modifications to Electric Rate Schedule.

Boardmember Stagner moved and Boardmember Brooke seconded to close Public Hearing for Proposed Modifications to Electric Rate Schedule at 12:56 p.m.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Boxley, Stagner
Voting No: None

Purchase Orders #89682 through #89712

Boardmember Stagner moved and Boardmember Leonard seconded to approve purchase orders #89682 through #89712 in the amount of \$65,730.25.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Boxley, Stagner
Voting No: None

Payment of Bills

Boardmember Brooke moved and Boardmember Leonard seconded to approve payment of bills: Vouchers #50232 through #50269 for a total of \$1,171,038.88.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Boxley, Stagner
Voting No: None

August 2020 Financial Report

Superintendent Hourieh reviewed the August 2020 financials which included the following:

Balance Sheet – Cash is down \$88,836.00 from July 2020 and accounts receivable has increased by \$62,880.00.

Income Statement – Total operating revenue is \$1,597,425.00 with total operating costs being \$1,319,246.00 for a gross operating income of \$278,180.00. Adding in non-operating revenues and expenses brings the net income to \$119,147.00.

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