**UTILITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**March 17, 2026**

Present: Jan Kahler, Aaron Eltrich, Megan Andresen, Abby Gehl, and Robert Herring

Absent: None

Chairperson Kahler called the meeting to order at 4:41 p.m.

Motion by Herring and seconded by Andresen to approve the agenda. All Ayes

Motion by Eltrich and seconded by Andresen to approve the minutes. All Ayes

Discussion took place on new homes in the Persing Mobile Home Park. Manager Chris Krogman updated the Board on ongoing work with the current owner of the Pershing and Platt Street mobile home parks. The owner, based in Virginia, purchased the properties within the past year and visited Maquoketa to meet with city and utility staff. He expressed his intention to improve the parks by bringing in 6 new modular-style homes from a builder in Indiana. The homes will feature 2x6 walls and standard-sized roofs. Existing electric infrastructure in the parks requires significant upgrades. Overhead poles at Pershing are deteriorated and have been cited for replacement. MMEU plans to work with the owner to install new underground electric service. Under the proposed arrangement, the park owner will cover the cost of meter pedestals and meter sockets, while MMEU will cover the cost of underground infrastructure and transformers. Work will proceed one section at a time to manage costs and assess the owner's follow-through. The owner is working through zoning setback issues with the city that affect lot placement. His long-term goal is to fill approximately 50 vacant lots across all of their parks. He has already begun site cleanup, including removing dilapidated homes and clearing trees. He has also discussed potential road resurfacing with the city. Manager Krogman noted cautious optimism given past experiences with previous park owners.

Discussion took place on upgrading electric service for Midwest Legacy Beef. Manager Krogman informed the Board about Midwest Legacy Beef, a raw pet food processing company that lost its facility in a fire in Lamotte. The company has secured the former Blue 9 building on Maple Street (near the former DAC/Imagine the Possibilities building) and is actively relocating operations. They have already poured a foundation for new coolers and loading docks and have equipment and supplies on-site.

The company, previously served by Alliant Energy, provided load comparisons indicating similar electrical demand at the new location. Their operations include blast coolers operating at approximately -40° Fahrenheit and multiple standard coolers, requiring substantial electrical capacity. The existing service, last upgraded by MMEU approximately four years ago, is insufficient for the expanded load. MMEU plans to change out the transformer bank, upgrade a span of underground wire, and reuse the majority of existing overhead wire. The company's electricians will handle the new service inside the building. MMEU will absorb the upgrade costs, with the expectation that increased revenue from the account will offset the investment. Staff noted that if future load exceeds projections, additional cost discussions may be necessary. The business is expected to bring approximately 25 jobs to Maquoketa. Blue 9 sold its business, leaving the building available.

Manager Krogman noted that the additional claims include the invoice for the new skid loader. Motion by Eltrich and seconded by Gehl to approve the claims as submitted All Ayes by Roll Call

Manager Krogman presented the monthly budget report. Total revenue for the period was $1.3 million. A capacity payment for February was not received due to the shortened month and billing cycle timing; it will be reflected in March. Total operating expenses were just under $1 million. The purchased power

bill of approximately $918,000 had not yet been received and will also be reflected in March. A fuel oil invoice from January was inadvertently omitted from last month's claims due to duplicate invoicing confusion. The cost will be caught up and largely reimbursed through the capacity payment. February electric usage was slightly below the five-year average, while January usage was strong. Overall budget performance remains on track.

Manager's Reports

- Matt Buck, Distribution Superintendent, stated the contractor will begin installation of the conduit for the resilience project within the next week. Locates have been called in. The project runs from the first pole north of Generator Drive south to the Industrial South Substation, with additional work at Plant Two to complete the south main circuit. The project creates an underground express/tie circuit allowing MMEU to tie substations and the power plant together, extending coverage to the Industrial South Substation. A pre-construction meeting was held with the contractor and engineer. Target completion is May, with a summer deadline acceptable. Construction was briefly delayed by snow. Also reported a pole broke off during high winds the previous Friday; crews responded and completed the repair the same day. Staff noted the crew's progress in training and emergency response capabilities.
- AJ Bowman, Power Plant Superintendent, stated crews have been performing maintenance on the large Fairbanks engine, one of the oldest units still in service. A retired employee assisted with rebuilding injectors and servicing gas valves. Staff are currently disassembling and cleaning intake valves.
- Chris Krogman, General Manager, stated the annual audit is complete and undergoing final review. The auditor offered to present to the Board. The Board agreed to receive the written report and request a presentation only if questions arise. Mr. Krogman also noted the used skid loader was sold via GovDeals auction for $62,500. The unit was originally purchased new in 2007 for $33,000. The buyer is located in New Jersey. Payment is pending through the GovDeals platform. The sale proceeds partially offset the cost of the previously approved new skid loader.

Board Member Reports

Board Member Andresen reported receiving positive community feedback regarding Manager Krogman's recent lunch-and-learn presentation on data centers. Attendees appreciated the explanation of MMEU's system capacity and what would be required to accommodate various sizes of data center operations in Maquoketa.

Motion by Eltrich and 2nd by Andresen to adjourn the meeting, all ayes, at 4:57 p.m.

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Jan Kahler, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Megan Andresen, Secretary