

April 23, 2020

The Idaho Falls Power Board of the City of Idaho Falls met Thursday, April 23, 2020, at the Idaho Falls Power Conference Room, 140 S. Capital, Idaho Falls, Idaho at 7:00 a.m.

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Announcements:

There were present:

Mayor Rebecca L. Noah Casper  
Board Member Thomas Hally (by WebEx)  
Board Member Jim Francis (by WebEx)  
Board Member Shelly Smede (by WebEx)  
Board Member Jim Freeman (by WebEx)  
Board Member John Radford (by WebEx)  
Board Member Michelle Ziel-Dingman (by WebEx)

Also present:

Bear Prairie, Idaho Falls Power (IFP) General Manager  
Randy Fife, City Attorney (by WebEx)  
Stephen Boorman, IFP Assistant General Manager (by WebEx)  
Jace Yancey, IFP Operations Technology Manager (by WebEx)  
Wid Richie, IFP Energy Services Manager (by WebEx)  
Linda Lundquist, IFP Executive Assistant

Mayor Casper called the meeting to order at 7:02 a.m. and proceeded to give a few brief announcements.

Board Member Radford gave a short briefing and stated some of the American Public Power Association's (APPA) top priorities from the Policy Maker's recent meetings in Washington D.C. He provided updates on the recently passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, including potential future funding for transmission. GM Prairie added that there could be a moratorium on utility disconnects in the CARES package and stated that utility disconnects are well managed by local governments.

Board Evaluations and Board Function

Board Member Radford continued with the Board evaluation discussion and mentioned that some of the questions from the current and prior year's evaluations did not necessarily apply to this Board and suggested forming a sub-committee prior to next year's evaluation period to revamp the process and survey. Attorney Fife and the Board were in full agreement to form a sub-committee. Board Member Radford reviewed the year-over-year outcomes and reasons to review board performance. There was a general discussion on regular and consent Council agenda items. GM Prairie explained how purchasing memos work for IFP and he invited Board Members to contact him with questions about future Council agenda items, training, etc. There was a discussion about creating a Board Agenda Topics document and GM Prairie said he would continue to focus on succession planning and reviewing areas of high risk.

Capital Plan Review and Preliminary Budget for Capital Plan

GM Prairie mentioned that budget items and expenses are introduced in the IFP budget and capital plan and can eventually come back through as Council agenda items for consent or regular approval. AGM Boorman reviewed the highlights of the plan. Mayor Casper requested site tours of the projects and Board Member Radford added the benefits of seeing the actual route of the transmission line. AGM Boorman reviewed the budget line items for each utility division. There was general discussion on a potential purchase of the Westside Substation. Information was provided on upcoming line extension projects. AGM Boorman stated the budget was similar to prior year budgets and GM Prairie added, with the exception of Rocky Mountain

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Power (RMP) paying us back for their portion of the 161 kv line extension. There was a discussion on long range system planning where growth will likely be on the North side of town and the load impact will primarily be from large commercial and industrial sites and new subdivisions. There was a discussion on feeder lines and Board Member Freeman asked if there is a plan in the works if a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) comes online? GM Prairie said an SMR would be included under a wholesale transmission agreement with RMP through Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) and added that IFP needs feeders brought into the system and mentioned that the Sugarmill to Paine line will be a major improvement to provide better bulk into the City's system. AGM Boorman concluded that in evaluating the long-term plan, not everything will come to pass so IFP is not ready to budget for everything as yet, but added that feeders have a lot of capacity to accommodate growth.

#### Building and Land Space

AGM Boorman said that IFP is looking to the future at least ten years to ensure the utility has room for growth and expansion and noted that a potential purchase of the Westside substation could provide some needed yard space relief. There was a discussion on potential expansion locations where a few of the areas could provide collaboration with other City departments for a win-win situation. GM Prairie stated the importance of considering distance and height restrictions when moving heavy equipment across the City on a daily basis and noted that building vertical structures to house conductors could solve some short-term storage challenges.

#### Fiber Update and Progress

Operations Technology Manager Yancey stated that the year has been busy with the fiber expansion and will continue to be busy as this year will bring on 6,500 new potential customers compared to last year's pilot of 1,500. He added there is a high priority to build the fiber huts which supply the City. GM Prairie thanked the City's Parks and Recreation and Fire Department directors for their collaborative efforts on facilitating fiber hut locations. As Mr. Yancey reviewed the fiber expansion maps, GM Prairie stated the selected areas of priority are based on ease of construction and electrical failures needing immediate upgrades. He added, as fiber expansion moves forward, there will be more focus on demand. He stated that the newly hired marketing company is working on an awareness campaign and marketing around fiber and noted that they're finalizing an ambulance wrap that will help explain the importance of fiber. GM Prairie reviewed the monthly statistics and noted a low take rate in overhead construction areas and a high take rate in newly constructed conduit areas. He continued to say the only lost customers are the ones who have moved from the area and noted the new residents often pick up the service. Currently, there are 30 customers waiting for connection and once the government lifts the stay at home restrictions, the utility will work with the fire department on protocol for entering homes. GM Prairie stated that IFP will continue to manage the project and installs and noted that private contractors have been hired to assist with trenching, home installs, and landscaping.

#### Energy Efficiency Program Training

Energy Services Manager Richie explained what the Northwest Power Act was and how it came to be and how the Regional Technical Forum studies energy efficiency and makes cost effective recommendations, which can get funding approval. He reviewed a few projects and gave some background of how IFP has participated in energy efficiency programs since 1982 and noted that IFP is on target to save 2.2 million kWh this year. Mr. Ritchie said the Energy Smart Industrial program supplies engineers to visit key IFP accounts and with the partnership of IFP, together they make energy saving suggestions. He reviewed potential future energy saving programs and GM Prairie added that some of the future programs like home battery storage and demand response could benefit by having a fiber communications network.

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Standing Reports

*Generation* – GM Prairie stated that the hydro generation insurance policy was coming due and there will be a memo coming to Council from Municipal Services. He added that there is not yet a policy to review due to some refining of the policy and hopes to supplement with secondary insurance. He said that rates will likely increase 20-30 percent this year due to nationwide weather events. GM Prairie asked for a head nod to sign the policy by May 1, 2020 and to present to Council at the May 14, 2020 meeting for ratification. Unanimous agreement was given from the Board.

*Utility* – GM Prairie asked the Board to view and share with community the weekly educational video series that promote the utility on Facebook and YouTube.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

s/ Linda Lundquist

Linda Lundquist, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

s/ Rebecca L. Noah Casper

Rebecca L. Noah Casper, MAYOR