

**UTILITY SERVICE BOARD
AUGUST 26, 2014
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Chairman Jay King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All members were present, as was City Attorney Randy Head, City Council member Gary Fox and Mr. Mitchell Kirk of THE PHAROS TRIBUNE newspaper. In addition, several LMU managers, employees and visitors were also in attendance.

The first item on the agenda was **Election of Officers**. Mr. Todd Miller moved to elect Mr. Martin Monahan as Chairman, Mr. Dan Slusser as Vice Chairman and Mr. Don Strasser as Secretary. Mr. King seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote, with officers elected as follows:

Chairman – Mr. Martin Monahan
Vice Chairman – Mr. Dan Slusser
Secretary – Mr. Don Strasser

The next item on the agenda was **Approval of Minutes**. Mr. Slusser moved to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. King seconded his motion. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

The Chairman then entertained a motion for **Approval of Claims**, and Mr. Miller moved to accept all claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strasser and all claims were unanimously approved.

Under Visitor Comments, Mrs. Mercedes Brugh of 1315 E. Market Street told Board Members they should consider the monies put into the Power Plant Project as “sunk” or “lost” costs. She warned that LMU would be losing its service area, which is LMU’s most valuable asset. Mrs. Brugh listed many questions that should be answered before a decision is made on the Development Agreement (DA). She urged Board Members to demand exhibits that are mentioned, but are blank, and to vote against the DA.

A second visitor, Mr. Jim Brugh, also of 1315 E. Market Street, stated that Utility Service Board Members should not be able to vote for a project without being made aware of all the details of the entities involved. He also questioned the legality of future administrations being bound by such contracts. He complained that the entire project has been “behind the scenes” and pointed out that no further engineering studies have been completed. Mr. Brugh advised that approving the DA at this time would not be a prudent course of action.

Under **Superintendent’s Comments**, Mr. Hartman advised that the Electric Department budget includes \$56,000.00 for the purchase of a brush chipper. The current chipper is a 1999 model and is in need of replacement. Mr. Miller noted that the Street Department advertised for a chipper, and there was discussion concerning the possibility of offering the old unit to the Street Department. Mr. Hartman stated that he expects bids to be under that amount and asked that they be accepted and reviewed with results then reported to the Board. Board members gave their consensus and also asked that the report also include the option of transferring the outdated equipment to the Street Department.

The Superintendent then clarified the timetable for the Electric Department Cost-of-Service Study and advised that Mr. John Skomp of *Crowe Horwath LLP* is expected to have the report finalized and ready for presentation at the October meeting.

A change for the September meeting was then discussed, with Board Members agreeing on 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 15th for their regular monthly meeting.

Mr. Hartman then offered a storm report from the previous Saturday which included a rainfall intensity that varied across the City, but in most areas could be considered a 100-year rainfall event. Effects of the renovated combined sewer overflow projects should already improve this situation, however monitoring results will not be known for another ten (10) months. Under this topic, Mr. Miller and Mr. Hartman applauded all LMU workers who keep utilities up and running through all weather situations.

As there were no **Old or Unfinished Business** the meeting progressed to **New Business/Specific Issues**, and Resolution 2014-04 regarding 2015 salaries and wages. The Superintendent gave details on the amounts, stating that the resolution provides increases for maximum limits; however, these figures have not been raised for eight (8) years and should not be raised again for at least five (5) years. After Mr. Strasser read the resolution aloud, Mr. Miller moved to approve it and Mr. Strasser seconded his motion. Resolution 2014-04 passed unanimously.

Resolution 2014-05 on the “Veterans Freedom Park” was then reviewed. As the Superintendent explained, the Cass County Roosters has asked to establish a portion of LMU Park to honor everyone who has served in any branch of the military. Their tentative plan includes naming this area “Veterans Freedom Park” and constructing a monument to honor all veterans. LMU would continue routine maintenance and supervision of the park. After the Chairman read the resolution aloud, Mr. Slusser moved to approve Resolution 2014-05 and Mr. King seconded it. The resolution passed 5-0.

As a **Board Member Comment**, Chairman Monahan commended employees from all utility departments for their swift response in resolving problems when they arise. Mr. Strasser added that the employees should also be praised for their continued safety practices as evident by the “Lost Time Reports”.

Mr. Slusser then referred to an incident the evening before at McHale Auditorium, following the Public Information Session on the Power Plant Project. He stated that someone had insulted and rudely interrogated his wife in the parking lot. Mr. Slusser added that this type of behavior would not be tolerated, and asked that anyone with information or questions can contact him to discuss the issue in a civil manner.

Chairman Monahan then indicated that as there were no further comments, the meeting would be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.