

LAS ANIMAS MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER

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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

June 8, 2021

The Las Animas Municipal Light & Power Board met in regular session at 5:33 p.m., Tuesday, June 8, 2021 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, with live streaming available on Facebook. **Present** were Mayor Jim Collins, David Beebe, Bill Deal, and Roberto Montoya **Absent:** Jerry Maupin. Mayor Collins declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order. Superintendent Ron Clodfelter and Administrative Assistant, Jessica Brundage were also present. **Other Guests:** Dustin Ramsey and Sam Vigil, attorney.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Jim Collins asked Mr. Kim to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Mr. Beebe made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (Minutes, Vouchers, and Income Statement). Mr. Bob Montoya seconded, motion carried.

Citizen Participation: Terry Kim and Randy McDermed

Superintendent's Report: The operations for the Las Animas Municipal Light & Power for the month of May 2021 were as follows:

- We experienced high winds the afternoon of Sunday the 2nd. Approximately 3:58 pm circuit 6 tripped due to a pole breaking in the 500 block of Bent and lines slapping. The crew held up the pole for the night with #10 digger truck and we replaced the pole on the 4th. The duration of the outage was approximately 30 minutes. The crew also changed out a pole just west of 12462 Highway 50 on the 6th that was also broke from the Sunday winds.
- We received a trouble call at 3:38pm on the 3rd for flickering lights at 305 11th street. This turned out to be loose transformer lead.
- Cannon Buford attended the Mesa Hot-Line School in Grand Junction the week of the 3rd.
- We switched from the Black Hills feed to the Tri-State feed from Lamar at 7:30am on the 18th.
- We also hosted the ARPA Operating Committee meeting at 9:30 on the 18th. Charmaine and Richard joined us when we were discussing Cyber Security.
- Approximately 5:26pm on Friday the 21st, Lamar's 69KV Line tripped. Houssin (Lamar's Superintendent) wanted a couple of my staff to drive it headed east and a couple of his staff to drive it headed west to look for any cause. After meeting up around the Prowers County line, without finding any damage, Houssin decided to close in their breaker at 7:00pm to heat the line back up. The problem was a Phase B to ground fault caused by lightning somewhere between Fort Lyon and Lamar. The duration of the outage was 1 hour and 34 minutes.
- We had our exit interview with Gary Waller the afternoon of the 25th.
- We hosted the ARPA Board meeting at the Fire Station on 27th.

- The line crew trimmed several trees on the 28th for the Public Works Chip Sealing Project.
- In closing I would like to share with you the system wide load comparison between May 2020 and May 2021. In 2020 the load was 1,656,730 Kwhs. The 2021 load was 1,576,877 Kwhs or approximately 4.8% less. For the year to date load, in 2020 the load was 8,604,333 Kwhs and the 2021 load is 8,813,432 Kwhs or approximately 2.4% more.

Old Business:

Lamar Outage: As I mentioned in my Superintendent report, we had an outage, caused by lightning on the Lamar's 69Kv Line on the 21st. Houssin stressed that he wanted to drive the line before closing in the breaker to energize the line. I was also talking to Black Hill's dispatch in Rapid City that night to see if we could switch to the Black Hill's line if we found a problem. Black Hill's did agree with Houssin's decision to drive the line before closing in the breaker and so do I in case it was a vehicle accident causing the fault. Again you can see on the photo that I provided you of the Lamar relay, it was a B-Phase to Ground Fault that caused OCB5_69 to trip. The Black Hill's line is now hot from LaJunta to the Las Animas Substation, only to be used in an emergency and I would need to notify them 25 minutes prior to switching.

New Business:

Cost of Service/Rate Design Study (Possible Action Item): There are two main reasons that I am asking the Board to approve having a Rate Study done for the Las Animas Municipal Light & Power. The first being that the last one done was in 2009 and with ARPA having a couple of years of rate decreases, a new study might show a rate decrease for many of our customers. The second reason, is during our March billing cycle it was discovered that we are under-billing the Demand Charge in the "General Service Demand" classification by 90% of actual amount. This classification of customers consists of those that their loads they require to operate puts the largest strain on our system during peak hours. I looked into five of the largest customers' accounts and if they had 12 months of the same billing data the monthly loss would be \$42,802.20 and the yearly loss would be \$513,626.40. I have provided you a breakdown of those losses, without customer identification. After speaking with our Auditor and Sam Vigil, we believe that the time is right to have a new Study done. I contacted Andrew Ross, the Director of Retail Utility Services and Member Relations, with the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, asking for a quote to have a study done. NMPP was the ones that have done the last several Studies for us, including the one in 2009. I received an Email from them on May 25th with a quote of \$11,170.

Mr. Deal made a motion to participate in the Rate Design Study. Mr. Montoya seconded, motion carried.

APPA National Conference: I will be attending the National Conference in Orlando, Florida from June 20th through the 23rd.

Other Business:

Scam Call: On Friday, May 28th, I received a call on my cell phone while at the office. The caller told me that they were from our local Power Provider and if I do not pay my bill I would lose power in 30 minutes. I reported the scam and posted to the City's Facebook page to notify customers of the scam.

Adjourn: With no further business, Mayor Collins declared the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, live streaming will be available.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jessica M. Brundage, MBA
Administrative Assistant