

June 9, 2010
Joint Council-Utility Board Meeting Minutes

The June 9, 2010 meeting of the Cascade City Council and the Cascade Municipal Utility Board was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Mayor Staner in the City Hall Chambers. Council members Boffeli, Knepper, Moriarity and Soppe answered roll call. Motion by Boffeli, 2nd Soppe to approve the agenda – all ayes.

Present from the Utility Board were trustees McDermott, Chairman Gavin, and Utility Manager Benke. Motion by McDermott, 2nd Gavin to approve the agenda – all ayes.

Council member Henry joined the meeting at 5:02.
Utility Board member Reiter joined the meeting at 5:05.

Susan Pinckney with Benefit Resources compared costs and explained differences between the City's and the Utility's current health insurance plan and several plan options for renewing or choosing a new health insurance plan. Pinckney explained that if the City were to renew with their current plan, the premiums would decrease by 2.25%. If the Utilities were to renew their current plan, the premiums would decrease by 3.71%. Two new primary plans could save the City 20% and 25%, but would take away coverage. The same plans could save the Utilities 3.87% and 9.43%. Partial-self-funding of co-pays, deductibles and maximum out-of-pockets for the health insurance plan was discussed among the Council and the Utility Board. While the City has budgeted between 25% and 15% for the last 3 years for partial-self-funding expense, the average actual cost for the last 3 years has been 4.61%.

Motion Soppe, 2nd Boffeli to select the JNZT98 plan with Wellmark for the City's health insurance policy effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 – all ayes.

The Utility Board will choose their plan at their meeting scheduled immediately after this joint meeting ends.

Council and Utility Board members reviewed proposals submitted from Dietz, Donald & Co, Elkader for \$9,300 and O'Connor, Brooks & Co, Dubuque for \$11,000 for performing an audit of FY10 for the City and the Utilities. Motion Boffeli, 2nd Soppe to approve the low bid from Dietz, Donald & Co, Elkader for \$9,300 – all ayes. Like motion by Reiter, 2nd McDermott – all ayes.

Utility Chairman Gavin gave information regarding the Christmas/Christmas Eve and New Years/New Years Eve holiday for 2010 and 2011. Gavin explained the employees typically are given off Friday if a holiday falls on a Saturday, but since the Eves are on Fridays, employees would already be off. Gavin questioned if employees would want Thursday for the holiday or Monday. City Administrator Lansing and Utility Manager Benke will check with employees and give a recommendation.

Gavin explained a difference in the use of sick leave for an employee's immediate family members in that the Utilities are capped at using 80 hours per year and the City employees can use an unlimited amount. Gavin also explained that there are differences in vacation accrual schedules of the City and the Utilities. The Utilities accrue vacation quicker than the City does and also the Utilities gain a 5th week of vacation after 30 years of service whereas the City's schedule is a maximum of 4 weeks.

Motion Boffeli, 2nd Soppe to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. – all ayes.

Shelley Annis, Deputy Clerk