

**REGULAR SESSION –WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 2020**

STATE OF KANSAS        )  
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CITY OF KANSAS CITY)

The Board of Public Utilities of Kansas City, Kansas (aka BPU, We, Us, Our) met remotely in Regular Session on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. The following Board Members were on the teleconference: Robert L. Milan, Vice President; Mary Gonzales, Secretary; Jeff Bryant, Rose Mulvany Henry and Thomas Groneman. Mr. Eidson, President was absent.

Also on teleconference: William Johnson, General Manager; Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Lori Austin, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer; Jim Epp, Executive Director Water Operations; Johnnetta Hinson, Executive Director Customer Service; Jeremy Ash, Executive Director Electric Operations; Robert Kamp, IT Project Manager; David Mehlhaff, Chief Communications Officer; Dennis Dumovich, Director of Human Resources; Stephanie Sestrich, Training and Development Coordinator; and Jody Franchett, Director Administrative Services.

A tape of this meeting is on file at the Board of Public Utilities.

Mr. Milan called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. He welcomed all that were listening or viewing the meeting. He stated the COVID 19 Pandemic had resulted in a State of Emergency disaster declared by the Governor which made it necessary to conduct the meeting using technology instead of in person. Those wishing to offer comments during the Visitors Comments section could click on the raised hand feature at the bottom of the application or window or press Star 9 and be connected by phone. As always, the public could email or call the BPU with any concerns. The Agenda could be found on the BPU website. If you were using Zoom, it would appear on your screen. Mr. Milan introduced himself and the other Board Members along with the GM, and Legal Counsel.

Roll call was taken and all Board Members were present via teleconference with the exception of Mr. Eidson.

Motion was made to approve the Agenda by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Groneman, and carried.

Motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session of July 1, 2020 by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Ms. Gonzales, and carried.

Mr. Milan turned the meeting over to Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Kamp if there were any visitors wishing to speak.

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Mr. Kamp said no one had their hand raised via teleconference.

**Item #6 – General Manager’s Reports**

- i. COVID-19 Update/Cares Act: Mr. Johnson updated the board on the status of the application. He asked Mr. Dumovich is he had any updates on COVID-19.

Mr. Dumovich gave an update on company COVID -19 matters.

- ii. Bond Sale Recap: Ms. Austin gave an update on the information presented to UG Economic Development and Finance committees on July 6 regarding refunding opportunities and additional monies. It was passed and was moved on to the full UG Commission on July 9 where it also was approved. Next steps were outlined.
- iii. Legislation Update: Colin Hanson, Executive Director of Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) gave an update on both state and national levels. He touched base on the following:
  - a. Kansas Legislature – the primary is August 4<sup>th</sup>. They would monitor the races that could affect the Senate Utilities Committee and House Energy and Utilities Committee. After the November election, Mr. Hanson and Ms. Kimberly Svaty would be on hand to explain the benefits of KMU, BPU and benefits of municipal utilities to the new legislators. Since the pandemic, two utility bills have been passed, Senate substitute for House Bill 2585 regarding new language for economic development programs and tariff for new high load customers coming from out of state. That bill did pass and was signed by the Governor. Also, Senate substitute for House Bill 2018, the cable video franchise bill which dealt with the mounting of assets onto existing infrastructure by cable systems, without local government fees or oversight. KMU was able to include some helpful language regarding pole attachments.  
Potential issues for next year included, Utility Disconnection Policies, Evergy Utility issues, and the topic of Securitization, which essentially gave utilities that own generation assets, particularly coal, the ability to issue bonds that would be secured by utility revenues and then retire those assets early and pay for potential stranded assets. Recent bills introduced made it important to keep on our radar. It had been focused on in the last couple of sessions by various groups. It was also identified in Phase I of the Electric Rate Study.

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Phase II of the Electric Rate Study which included a massive data request was turned in to the Legislature on July 1<sup>st</sup> and was still an ongoing discussion. To remind, Phase I focused on what recommendations could be made to the Legislature or the KCC to make Kansas electric rates more competitive.

- b. Congress – Energy and infrastructure are a really focus in Washington D.C. A big issue for KMU and the American Public Power Association (APPA) was securing financial aid for public power; possibly moving forward with a forgivable loan program. Another key issue was Advanced Refunding. Senate Bill 4129, known as the Local Infrastructure Bill, reinstates the ability to issue tax exempt Advance Refunding bonds. They would continue to watch what’s going on in the US House of Representatives.
- c. KMU – A quick snapshot of KMU included the cancelation of this year’s conference. That had prompted the moving of the annual business meeting required by their bylaws to a virtual platform. Their challenges were large in person events, however with proper protocols in place, onsite technical and safety training is going strong.
- d. APPA – Mr. Hanson has been chosen as the chair-elect this year and will be Chairman of the Board beginning June 2021. APPA also was adapting to handling conferences and events to virtual or hybrid platforms.

Mr. Johnson asked how the pandemic was affecting timeline and possible considerations of the Kansas Rate Study in terms of lost revenue and other things that utilities were experiencing.

Mr. Hanson said that in the end AECOM, the primary consultant working on it, provided an additional two weeks to the entities that had to provide responses.

- iv. Miscellaneous Comments: Mr. Johnson thanked all who participated in the Work Session and Ms. Ruth Benien for her participation in the discussion. He would be reaching out to committee members in the coming weeks to schedule times to meet before the end of the year.

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Board Comments

Mr. Groneman had no comments.

Mr. Bryant said that the UG Finance Committee had met and discussed the reissuing of the bonds for the BPU. He thanked Ms. Austin for her due diligence in keeping her eye out for opportunities to cut costs of interest during this time.

Ms. Gonzales had no comments.

Ms. Mulvany Henry thanked Mr. Hanson for the update from Topeka and beyond. It was very helpful and appreciated.

Mr. Milan thanked Mr. Hanson and Ms. Benien for their participation. With it being an election year it was very timely. He wanted to compliment everyone for the hard work and input. He also wanted everyone to be safe.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 P.M. by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Ms. Mulvany Henry and carried.

ATTEST:

NOT signed by Secretary  
Secretary  
*due to Pandemic*

*Jenny Burley-Krenzer*  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
8/6/20

APPROVED:

*Ray Eidsen*  
President