

**ELECTRICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**City of Escanaba, Michigan**  
**Regular EAC Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Electrical Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Glendon Brown at 4:00 PM in Room 401 of Escanaba City Hall, 410 Ludington Street. Roll call was conducted at 4:05PM by Electric Department Clerk Jill Freeman.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Glendon Brown, Vice Chairperson Ann Bissell, Committee Members John Anthony, and Tim Wilson (Late arriving at approximately 4:12PM)

**ABSENT:** NONE

**ALSO PRESENT:** Electric Utility Director: Gerald Pirkola and City Council Liaison: Ron Beauchamp

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Bissell made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Anthony, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, as submitted.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Brown asked members if there were any adjustments to the agenda hearing of none the agenda was approved as presented.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DELCARATION**

Mr. Anthony stated that if a recommendation was made regarding the Energy Optimization Program there may be a conflict of interest since he is applying for a rebate.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **NB-1: Discussion- Electrical Advisory Committee Rules of Order**

Mr. Pirkola provided members with a handout regarding the Committee Rules of Order. This was in response to Mr. Wilson's question concerning the Electric Department opting out of MIRECS. MIRECS was recently discussed with the Controller and City Manager and the decision was made to opt out of MIRECS. Mr. Pirkola said that time was crucial in letting the state know. Mr. Pirkola discussed the Rules of Procedure, and it was unanimously agreed that based off Rules of Procedure Authority/Purpose- 1.1 General 4) Energy policy and needs that are of mutual concern to the committee and City Council that EAC should have been informed on the opting out of MIRECS prior to approval being made. Mr. Brown stated that everything would apply except rate consideration. Mr. Wilson asked if there are other administrative items that wouldn't come to the EAC. Mr. Pirkola responded with yes, budgets for example. There was a brief discussion on MIRECS regarding the climate bill and that legislation may make mandatory. Mr. Brown requested some documentation or an explanation on why MIRECS is mandatory for municipalities.

### **NB-2: General Operations Update**

Mr. Pirkola discussed with members the following topics.

- Streetlight Poles
- Wood Poles
- NEVI
- AMI Update
- Purple/Blue Lights
- West Side Substation/SCADA
- Outages

Mr. Pirkola notified the members of the current departmental activities. Streetlight poles completed on Ludington St from 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> street which is as far as we will go this year. Five more lights were added on Bonifas Drive. Mr. Brown was inquiring if the lights were because of the vandalism. Mr. Pirkola responded with yes and there are a lot of cameras in the park. The current total of 169 defective purple/blue lights have been changed and this will be ongoing until all defective lights are changed. The time it takes to replace lights was also discussed and Mr. Wilson was curious to know if there were any issues getting replacement lights. Mr. Pirkola replied that there have been no issues. Mr. Pirkola discussed wood poles and that 22 defective poles have been changed and that the poles that are of concern are looked at as either danger or reject. Mr. Pirkola told members that 2,150 AMI meters have been installed. The Miss Digs have decreased so the service truck is now installing AMI meters as well as the Meter Technician Mr. Madalinski. Mr. Pirkola briefly mentioned the NEVI Program and that the 1<sup>st</sup> stage is completed. We have been contacted by one customer who has successfully made it to Stage 2. The West Side Substation/SCADA has been approved by the City Council and our 1<sup>st</sup> step will take place on 10/12/2023 which will be to test the transformer. Mr. Pirkola mentioned that it is good utility practice to test transformers. With this testing it will give us a baseline of where it is at.

### **NB-3: Solar Project Performance Update**

Mr. Pirkola turned it over to Mr. Brown who provided members with a handout (Attachment NB-3 EAC Solar Project Update through 10-11-2023). He discussed this handout with members along with Figure 1's monthly pattern. The Number 16 inverter is still intermittently shutting down, suspecting this to be a bad DC connection which will take some time to troubleshoot.

### **NB-4: 40101D Grant**

Mr. Pirkola discussed the 40101D Grant and that it is open for RFP (request for proposal). We intend to apply for a grant up to \$300,000 to use for tree trimming, pole replacement and replacing old insulators. The deadline to apply is November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and Mr. Pirkola confirmed that MMEA is aware of this deadline.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

City Council Ron Beauchamp addressed the #16 Inverter troubleshooting and gave suggestions on possible fixes.

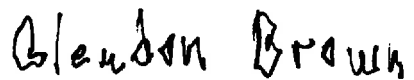
**COMMISSION/STAFF COMMENT & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next meeting is scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

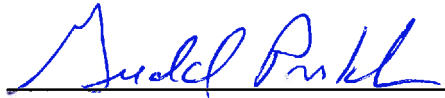
**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM

**APPROVED:**



Glendon Brown, EAC Chairman



Gerald Pirkola, Electric Utility Director