

PAROWAN POWER BOARD MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2024
CITY OFFICES – 35 EAST 100 NORTH – 5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jared Burton (Chair), Jeremy Franklin (Power Superintendent), Sharon Downey (Council Representative), Dan Jessen (City Manager), Greg Evans, Stacy Gale (Secretary).

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Harris (Council Representative), Jeff Robison.

PUBLIC PRESENT: John Dean, Mollie Halterman.

CALL TO ORDER: Jared Burton called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS WITH OR PERSONAL INTEREST ON ANY AGENDA ITEMS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jared Burton moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2024. Sharon Downey seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of approval. The motion carried. The minutes were approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF DISCUSSION: Jeremy Franklin handed out information on Rocky Mountain Power’s Power Safety Shutoffs (handout 1). He said the Power Safety Shutoff is if there is a fire in the area of a transmission line within about 2 miles, RMP can and most likely will disconnect power services to that area for safety precautions. The last three outages have not been a public safety shutoff, they have been because of a fault on a line which caused the breaker to trip. The breaker normally would not trip that quickly, or as often, if they weren’t under fire settings. RMP substation is set up on fire settings which makes everything really sensitive to any kind of faults. The Public Safety Power Shutoff is different; there is not a trip on the line, it will isolate the circuit for safety of not having a fire. Jeremy said RMP has a meteorological team that tracks humidity, wind, heat, vegetation, and a number of factors that play into it. Unfortunately, our transmission line that comes from RMP is in a high fire area designated by them.

Jeremy said the first two pages of the handout were provided by UAMPS and he thinks we need to put it on our website and Facebook page, and maybe even send out flyers. He wanted this board to look at it and make any changes before we get the information out. Mayor Halterman said she would like to use bullets to list the reasons it would trip. Dan said he posted on the city Facebook page what RMP had sent out to all of their customers; Jeremy said that is the 3rd page of his handout. Jeremy said he thinks this explains more how RMP correlates with the city rather than the fire risk; that is a benefit as people don’t understand why we blame RMP when there is a power outage. There was a discussion about businesses using generators for when the power goes out; Jeremy said we need to let customers know if they are going to install a generator, they need to be installed correctly because it can be a hazard. Jared said the truth of it is, it’s not Parowan City’s responsibility if a business is losing thousands of dollars because of a power outage; Jeremy said we do our best to guarantee service. Dan said education is part of this. He

said if we continue on this frequency, there is going to be more political pressure to do more than just accept it. Dan said he talked to Tom Heaton with RMP and asked what can we do; he said have Jeremy reach out to Matt Topham. Jeremy said he has, and Matt is coming to the next City Council meeting. Tom also said that we can write a letter to the president of RMP. There was a discussion on the Brian Head line. Mayor Halterman asked about using solar as a backup; Jeremy said we could look into a type of generation whether it be solar or battery, or look at a natural gas generator but that would be about \$2 million. There was a discussion about how that would work.

Jeremy said he had a meeting with RMP a couple of weeks ago and one positive is they are working towards switching our substation to a 69 KV line which will basically tap off of the Brian Head line to feed our substation so all of the exposure in valley won't affect us near as much. He said that will probably be a year from October. We have to do some upgrades to our substation; Jeremy has been trying to get a hold of the engineers who built it to come down and see what we need to do. He said we are moving to a higher voltage which will not have little individual transformers hooked to it, it'll just be a substation-to-substation power line so that will improve our service also.

Jeremy said at the APPA Conference he attended last week almost every class he attended was about customer engagement and he feels we need to do more of that. Mollie suggested giving customers stats of when they have power and when they don't; it was decided that might make customers angrier or irritated. Dan said he thinks we need to do better at communication. He said we need to, one, communicate the current issue, and two, have a better way of communicating outages. Jared asked where we get the most following; the answer was Facebook Parowan/Paragonah Uncensored page. Sending out an Everbridge notification when the power goes out was suggested; Jeremy said when it is a RMP outage it is hard to determine how long it will be out. Jeremy said that may be a good question for the City Council to ask Matt Topham, what is the best way we can estimate RMP restoration time. Dan agreed it is a good idea to have Matt Topham come to City Council to explain and address the issue and their policies, then if we feel additional need or pressure we can send a letter. Sharon suggested to take a clip of Matt at City Council from YouTube and put it on our website; Dan said we can do that. Dan asked how do we address the Everbridge alerts; do we wait until we get good information then send it and start with "Rocky Mountain power outage affecting Parowan City" or "Parowan City outage due to" and give an estimate restoration time, or do we send it out as soon as it happens. There was a discussion on ideas how to handle this. Jeremy said maybe our first step is to create an information sheet using the information on the handout to put on our website or do an EDD mailer.

Dan said we talked about 4 things:

1. The Everbridge alerts. We need to come up with a format and how to do that. He said geofence it to where the outage is, wait until we have good information, and then send it out.
2. We should also put it on our Facebook page and webpage. Mollie asked about having a PIO to put information on the Parowan/Paragonah Uncensored page; Dan said no, we would just put the information on the Parowan Utah Facebook page. There was a discussion about the rules on Facebook posts.

3. The Mailer.
4. Matt Topham coming to City Council.

There was a discussion about putting something in the upcoming newsletter about the power outages.

UAMPS UPDATE: Jeremy Franklin said UAMPS hosted their meeting in San Diego where UAMPS informed them that RMP is increasing the transmission cost 45%, and we are a transmission customer. UAMPS is going to try to contest with FERC as the typical transmission increases 2-5% annually so they feel this increase is unreasonable and unfair. The increase went into effect June 1, so our next bill will have the increase. Jeremy said on a low usage month the UAMPS transmission fee is between \$3,000 to \$8,000. Last month's transmission was \$7,000, so 45% of that is around \$3,500; we can expect to pay the \$3,000 to \$8,000 until it is contested. Jeremy thinks it will be reduced. There was a discussion on RMP power rate increase.

Jeremy said the UAMPS conference is in Midway this year and it should be good. It will be August 18-20. He will send the email on how to register to those who are interested in going.

RATE DISCUSSION: Jeremy Franklin said Chris Lund, who did our rate proposal last year, had a 2.2% increase every year to keep us flowing in the right direction. Jeremy has been having conference calls with him the last 2 weeks and he is still looking at the 2.2%, but he wants to look more into our "time of use" customer. It used to be that 10 pm to 8 am was cheap power and we weren't using as much so it was a good time to shift users to that time to balance things out. He said anymore, with the influx of a lot solar, we are actually seeing higher rates early in the morning, more than from 10 am to 2 pm, so it will cost more in the morning.

Jeremy referred to handout 2. He said the 2.2% is what Chris Lund is projecting through 2025 (on page one), then in Year 2 (on the second page) he recommends we bump up our base rate and demand charge from Year 1. He also recommends we move 2 cents out of the PCA and put it into our regular rate which will make it 10.3 cents/KWH and make our PCA be under a penny most months. It is not changing the customer's bill; it's just changing the way you look at it. Jeremy said what is nice about keeping the PCA is as our transmission costs increase by 45% our PCA will basically follow that. Jeremy said the preliminary number of the May UAMPS bill is \$78,000, which is \$20,000 less than last month. We're trending in a good direction with our bills; the transmission will affect it and slow our trend a little bit. Jeremy thinks it's a good idea to move some of the money out of the PCA charge, which has been 3+ cents, to our regular rate and let the PCA flow as is; it looks better for the customer. Jeremy said basically when we have implemented the PCA we have been charging .036 cents for our fuel cost, so we will bump that up to 2 cents. He did the preliminary for July which put our PCA at .009 cents.

Mayor Halterman said she will put Matt Topham and this PCA discussion on the next City Council agenda. Jeremy will get the breakdown from Chris Lund so he can present it.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

STAFF & MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURN: Sharon Downey moved to adjourn the meeting. Greg Evans seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes Approved at July 18, 2024 Meeting



Jared Burton, Committee Chair



Stacy Gale, Secretary