

**Minutes of the Moorhead Public Service Commission**  
**Hjemkomst Center, Auditorium**  
**Tuesday, August 26, 2025 – 4:30 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Baker, Lisa Borgen, Matthew Leiseth, Jason Ness, and Joel Paulsen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Heidi Durand

**OTHERS PRESENT:** General Manager Travis Schmidt; Staff Members Adam Benhardt, Taylor Holte, Jake Long, Mark Moilanen, Lisa Norstad, Marc Pritchard, and James Sumba; MPS Attorney John Boulger; Downtown Moorhead, Inc. President/CEO Derrick LaPoint; City Manager Dan Mahli; and Assistant City Manager Mike Rietz

**1. CALL TO ORDER.**

Chairperson Paulsen called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM. A quorum of the following members was present: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA.**

*Commissioner Ness made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Leiseth seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA.**

*Commissioner Borgen made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

[The consent agenda approved above includes all items shown herein with an asterisk (\*). These items were considered routine or non-controversial by the Commission and were enacted by the Commission in one motion, which is the motion above to approve the consent agenda.]

**\*4. APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2025.**

*Commissioner Borgen made a motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2025. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**\*5. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT.**

*Commissioner Borgen made a motion to approve the bills for payment. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**\*6. APPROVE CHANGE ORDERS NO. 1 AND 2 WITH BORDER CONSTRUCTION, LLC, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MPS' REDUNDANT NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER.**

*Commissioner Borgen made a motion to approve Change Orders No. 1 and 2 for the construction of Moorhead Public Service's redundant Network Operations Center to Border Construction, LLC, in the total amount of \$55,503.98. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**7. CUSTOMERS TO BE HEARD/RECOGNITIONS.**

There were no customers to be heard and no recognitions were made.

**8. OLD BUSINESS.**

There was no old business to discuss.

**9. REPORTS.**

**City Council.**

Commissioner Borgen stated that the Moorhead City Council (City Council) decided to pause aerial mosquito spraying for two weeks and, in the meantime, held a City Council workshop to discuss residents' concerns. On August 25, 2025, City Council voted on August 25, 2025, to resume spraying in accordance to the City of Moorhead's policy. Borgen also stated that Moorhead Public Service needs to work toward a decision regarding its financial contribution to the new Moorhead City Hall.

**Public Service Commission.**

No report was made.

**General Manager's Report.**

General Manager Travis Schmidt provided an introduction of the General Manager's Report, which included the 2025 second quarter Strategic Plan updates, quarterly dashboard reports for the second quarter, a press release from Missouri River Energy Services, as well as several cards thanking MPS for its sponsorships. Schmidt responded to questions of the Commission.

**Accept Report on Regional Electric Rates.**

Construction Manager Adam Benhardt provided an overview of this report and explained how electric rates establish our competitive standing in relation to surrounding utilities. Schmidt and Benhardt responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

*Commissioner Ness made a motion to accept the report on regional electric rates. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**Accept Report on Reserved Capacity Agreements with MRES and Transmission for Potential Large-Load Customers.**

General Manager Travis Schmidt introduced Mr. Terry Wolf, Missouri River Energy Services' (MRES') Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Wolf provided a PowerPoint presentation on MRES' role in providing power to MPS, information on long-term power resource needs, potential impacts from future

industrial growth, and proactive steps and opportunities that MPS can make to accommodate growth. Schmidt and Mr. Wolf responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

*Commissioner Leiseth made a motion to accept the report on Reserved Capacity Agreements with Missouri River Energy Services and transmission for potential large-load customers. Commissioner Borgen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**Accept Report on Potential Use of Lime Sludge in Roadway Construction.**

Water Plant Manager Marc Pritchard provided an update on research initiatives being conducted at the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Michigan State University, and Texas A&M for potential uses of lime sludge and their findings thus far. Pritchard responded to questions of the Commission.

*Commissioner Ness made a motion to accept the report on the potential use of lime sludge in roadway construction. Commissioner Borgen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**Accept Report on MPS' Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project.**

Water Distribution Manager Jake Long provided an update on the completion of the initial System Acceptance Testing area and how customers will be notified for the upcoming phase. General Manager Travis Schmidt and Long responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

*Commissioner Leiseth made a motion to accept the report on Moorhead Public Service's Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**10. APPROVE TASK ORDER NO. 3 WITH MBN ENGINEERING FOR MPS' 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE PROJECT FROM THE FARGO SUBSTATION TO THE SHEYENNE DIVERSION.**

Project Engineer Taylor Holte provided background information regarding the need for Task Order No. 3 with MBN Engineering, Inc. This task order will provide project management services, including preparing bid specifications and providing support to MPS staff during the bid process for upgrading MPS' 115 kV transmission line in West Fargo. MPS Attorney John Boulger, General Manager Travis Schmidt, and Holte responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

*Commissioner Borgen made a motion to approve Task Order No. 3 with MBN Engineering, Inc., for Moorhead Public Service's 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project from the Fargo Substation to the Sheyenne Diversion, contingent upon final legal approval. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**11. AWARD BID FOR FURNISHING ELECTRIC POWER TRANSFORMERS AT MPS' NORTHEAST SUBSTATION.**

Project Engineer Taylor Holte provided details regarding the bids that MPS received for two 28 MVA transformers that will be installed at MPS' Northeast Substation Project. MPS Attorney John Boulger and Holte responded to questions of the Commission.

*Commissioner Leiseth made a motion to award the bid for furnishing electric power transformers at Moorhead Public Service's Northeast Substation to Prolec-GE Waukesha, Inc., in the amount of \$3,617,560, contingent upon final legal approval, and authorize the General Manager to approve all change orders up to a cumulative maximum of 5 percent of the contract amount, not-to-exceed 5 percent of the approved contract. Commissioner Borgen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**12. AWARD BID FOR FURNISHING 115 KV BREAKERS AT MPS' NORTHEAST SUBSTATION.**

Project Engineer Taylor Holte provided details regarding the bids that MPS received for furnishing six 115 kV breakers that will be installed at MPS' Northeast Substation Project.

*Commissioner Ness made a motion to award the bid for furnishing 115 kV breakers at Moorhead Public Service's Northeast Substation to Border States Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$913,800, contingent upon final legal approval, and authorize the General Manager to approve all change orders up to a cumulative maximum of 5 percent of the contract amount, not-to-exceed 5 percent of the approved contract. Commissioner Borgen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**13. REVIEW PRELIMINARY 2026 BUDGET TIMETABLE, APPOINT COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS, AND SET DATE FOR WATER AND ELECTRIC RATE HEARINGS.**

Administration and Finance Manager Mark Moilanen provided information on MPS' 2026 budget timetable, the upcoming Water Rate Study and electric and water rate hearings, and the process for determining the proposed 2026 electric and water rates. General Manager Travis Schmidt responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

*Commissioner Borgen made a motion to appoint Commissioners Baker, Borgen, and Paulsen to serve on the Budget Working Group, appoint Commissioners Borgen, Leiseth, and Ness to serve on the Human Resources Working Group, and set Tuesday, October 21, 2025, as the date for the water and electric rate hearings. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

**14. CLOSE MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Chairperson Paulsen stated that the meeting will be closed for executive session as permitted by Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(c), to discuss possible property transaction involving Parcel No. 10.032.1000 in Clay County, Minnesota, and authorize the General Manager to negotiate a Purchase Agreement.

*Commissioner Borgen made a motion to close the meeting for executive session and adjourn upon conclusion of executive session. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Ness, and Paulsen. Voting No: None.*

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:14 PM.

PRESENT IN CLOSED SESSION WERE: COMMISSIONERS PAUL BAKER, LISA BORGEN, MATT LEISETH, JASON NESS, AND JOEL PAULSEN; GENERAL MANAGER TRAVIS SCHMIDT; STAFF MEMBERS JAKE LONG, MARK MOILANEN, AND MARC PRITCHARD; MPS ATTORNEY JOHN BOULGER.

**15. UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

Upcoming meetings of the Moorhead Public Service Commission are scheduled for September 2, 2025 (if needed), and September 23, 2025.

**16. ADJOURN.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

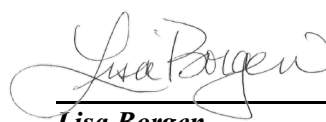
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*The minutes herein are approved on this 23rd day of September, 2025.*

**APPROVED BY:**



**Paul Baker**  
***Vice Chairperson<sup>i</sup>***

**ATTEST:**



**Lisa Borgen**  
***Secretary<sup>i</sup>***

<sup>i</sup> Pursuant to the Bylaws of the Moorhead Public Service Commission adopted January 18, 2022, Article 3, Section 11, states, "The Chairperson and Secretary shall sign, execute, and acknowledge all instruments authorized by the Commission or as are incident to the office. If either the Chairperson or Secretary is unavailable to execute an instrument, the Vice Chairperson may execute the instrument in place of the unavailable officer. Execution of instruments by two officers is required."