

July 29, 2025

The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in regular session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 4:00 p.m. on the above date. Present were Trustees Kelly Horsman and Ben Storms. Absent was Trustee Jerry Runneberg. Guests present were Jon and Amy Hubbell. Also present was General Manager Chad Cleveland.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the agenda for the July 29, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jon and Amy Hubbell expressed some concerns about the potential bitcoin mining operation being located South of their property adjacent to the LMPC communications tower. Here are some of the concerns they mentioned: Noise - what technology are they going to use? Is it a closed-looped system or will they need a constant supply of water? How will this operation affect electric rates? How will it affect our current electric system? What do you know about the owners of the bitcoin mining operation? Will LMPC stand up for the residents of Laurens, if a problem arises with this bitcoin mining operation? The Board of Trustees thanked Jon and Amy for bringing these concerns to their attention and plan on addressing each of these concerns with the owners of the bitcoin mining operation.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2025 regular meeting and the July 8, 2025 special meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the summary of receipts for June 2025 in the amount of \$335,271.12 and the list of expenses for June 2025 in the amount of \$280,583.81. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### **Summary of Receipts**

A/R- Electric	\$ 228,714.20
A/R- Communications	\$ 44,915.65
Merchandise/Services- Electric	\$ 126.00
Carrier Access Fees- Communications	\$ 2,047.24
Write Off Recovery- Communications	\$ 212.31
NIMECA Power Bill- Electric	\$ 11,709.84
Investments Accrued Interest- Electric	\$ 6,491.30
E-Rate Reimbursement- Communications	\$ 61.20
Deposits- Electric	\$ 700.00
Deposits- Communications	\$ 58.00
Marathon Energy Sales- Electric	\$ 7,737.98
Tower Lease- Communications	\$ 4,382.18
Attachment H Revenues- Electric	\$ 28,065.22
Broadband/Voice Lifeline Support- Communications	\$ 20.00
Office Phones- Electric	\$ 30.00
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 335,271.12</b>

#### **List of Expenses**

A&M Laundry	Dust Mops & Mats	\$ 89.28
AFLAC	Employee Contributions	\$ 142.86
Aureon	CALEA/SS7/Switching	\$ 128.91
Avesis – Fidelity Security Life	Group Vision Insurance	\$ 70.76
Bailey, David	Company Clothing	\$ 96.27
Calix, Inc.	Calix Services	\$ 2,599.71
City of Laurens	Utility Billing	\$ 98,519.32
City of Laurens	Cash Donation	\$ 31,887.73
City of Laurens	Cleaning Supplies	\$ 56.82
Cleveland, Chad	Meeting Expenses	\$ 355.60

CMBA Architects	City Hall Renovation Project	\$	1,275.90
Community First Broadcasting	L-M School Sponsor	\$	52.50
Consortia Consulting	Monthly Consulting Fee	\$	1,200.00
Crystal Clear Communications	Website Hosting Annual Fee	\$	388.00
Customers	Credit Refunds	\$	36.73
Department of Energy	WAPA Power Bill	\$	31,476.95
DGR Engineering	Large Load Interruptible Rates	\$	560.00
DGR Engineering	Relay Upgrades/SCADA Project	\$	5,247.70
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Administration	\$	120.00
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Claims	\$	3,089.52
GFC Leasing – WI	Copier Leases	\$	80.32
Grainger	Supplies	\$	160.02
Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	\$	9,666.24
Internal Revenue Service	Excise Tax/PCORI Fees	\$	465.69
Interstate TRS Fund	TRS Fund Assessment	\$	246.75
Iowa Department of Revenue	Sales Tax	\$	3,849.24
Iowa Department of Revenue	State Withholding	\$	858.46
Iowa One Call	Locates	\$	22.60
Iowa Public Employees Retirement System	IPERS Contributions	\$	5,380.63
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications	Monthly Communications Bill	\$	97.97
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Monthly Utility Bill	\$	194.83
Laurens Plumbing Services	AC Repairs/Supplies	\$	1,152.76
Laurens Sun	Publications/Advertising	\$	207.63
Long Lines	Communication Services	\$	8,219.84
Lumen Lexcis	Directory Listings	\$	144.00
Lumenserve	Tower Lighting Monitoring	\$	316.24
Main Street Checks	Deposit Books	\$	135.24
Mid America Computer Corporation	Utility Billing	\$	898.72
Mid-American Energy	Neal 4 Operations	\$	18,000.00
Office Elements	Office Supplies	\$	671.36
Paymentus Group Inc	Credit Card Fees- Communications	\$	201.56
Paymentus Group Inc	Credit Card Fees- Utility Billing	\$	292.59
Payroll	Salaried, Hourly & Overtime	\$	24,252.98
PLIC-SBD Grand Island	Life/Disability Insurance	\$	629.83
Pocahontas County E911 Service Board	E911 Fees	\$	757.26
Pro Cooperative	Vehicle Fuel	\$	293.98
Qwest dba Centurylink-IA	Access Charges	\$	95.15
Record Democrat	Advertising	\$	35.00
RSM US LLP	Network Support	\$	3,071.72
Sobotka Farms LLC	Limestone Hauling	\$	718.41
Stuart C Irby	Secondary Pedestal Lids	\$	738.30
T & R Service Company	Testing Fees	\$	15.00
TP Anderson & Company	Audit Services	\$	6,500.00
US Card Systems	Consulting Fees	\$	149.95
VECTOR	Membership/First Aid/Insurance	\$	5,395.00
Verizon	Wireless Phone Service	\$	155.55
VISA	AutoCAD/Meeting Expenses	\$	185.88
Webster County Treasurer	Property Taxes	\$	831.25
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Group Health Insurance	\$	8,101.30
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>280,583.81</b>

Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report, Investment Schedule, Income Statement, and Balance Sheet for June 2025. No action was taken.

Discussion was held on proposed changes to the Employee Handbook that deal with Hours of Work, Sick Leave, and Health Insurance. The Board suggested a couple changes to the Sick Leave and Health Insurance sections. Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to table this until the next board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the Conflict Waiver – Land Purchase from Pocahontas County and authorize Board Chairman Ben Storms to sign the written consent to proceed. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the proposed LMPC Public Records Request Policy. The Board directed the General Manager to inform Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. that the policy is acceptable. Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Horsman to table this until the next board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The General Manager reported that the City Council was in favor of having the old swimming pool torn down and removed. The City Council also accepted the offer from LMPC to pay for the demolition and removal of the old swimming pool. City staff and LMPC staff are currently working on specifications and form of contract to present to the City Council at their next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Ben Storms  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland  
Secretary, Board of Trustees