

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

July 21, 2026

303 S. Anthony St, Kennett, MO 63857

Members Present:

John Robertson
Towny Sparks
Richard Edgington
Phil D. Gurley

Others Present:

Jamie Chitester, CEO
Crystal Belote, CFO
Lisa Stacks, Admin. Assistant
Jill Rickman, CHRO
Marty Johnson, COO

Jake Crafton, Mayor
Melissa Combs, City Admin.
Lisa Dry, Council Member
Dennis Pelts, Council Member

Mr. Robertson called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Gurley seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The July 7, 2026, meeting minutes were presented for approval. Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Gurley seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The April and May 2026 financials were presented. No action was required.

Mr. Edgington was welcomed as the newest board member.

Mr. Gurley nominated Mr. Edgington to serve as Board Secretary. The nomination was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Edgington was duly elected and will serve as Board Secretary.

COO Report: Mr. Johnson gave a presentation on demand charges, how they work, affect Kennett, KBPW and revenues. He gave handouts for a clearer understanding.

Mr. Johnson provided department updates.

Electric: We are working on an issue at 931 Compress-DAEOC Head Start. During meter testing they found the CT's shunted. They did replace the CT's but after testing there are issues with polarity. The reason is unknown currently. Tree trimmers are mowing and picking up trash.

Gas: We are working on pulling meters and getting readings due to issues with Aclara not reading all of them. IT has been working on the issue and will be installing a VPN at one of the locations. We are having issues with the connections. These connections are thru an outside provider. Nothing has changed but Aclara says something is being blocked.

Power Plant: We are going to run #9 to get a capacity run in before MSHS starts working on the control system. We had issues with a fuel line blowing and the Bristol leaned out the engine, and they had to stop the engine. Drake is also working on getting quotes for #8 to get a control system to make it safe. We are also trying to get a radiator for it. They have been generating due to high prices. The wind fell off and SPP missed the forecast. The price was over \$500, per MW.

Water/WW: We have 2 at school. We are vacuuming lift stations and the transfer station. All the manhole inspections are done, as is the flushing of hydrants. They are also working on painting hydrants.

Water Treatment/WW Treatment: Everything is running smoothly.

IT: A new position has been added, a Network and Fiber Operations Technician. ATT has moved the office phone lines to the IT building. We are still working on getting the phone line from the Power Plant transferred.

Safety/Grounds: The demolition on Shakers-409 E Second is still in the works. Dustin will be attending the MIRMA conference the rest of the week.

Purchasing: We are getting a bid for a replacement vehicle for the gas departments on call truck.

CEO Report: Mr. Chitester provided his report.

Mr. Chitester shared that Evergy will still want to purchase extra capacity. They are working on details for this. The water treatment plant will be looking at plans to see if we will be moving forward with that plan.

Mr. Chitester shared that we are having problems with our billing system and demand charges. It has not been resetting it every year, like it was supposed to. It is set to the highest ever not the highest in the past 12 months. 208 customers are possibly affected. Those customers will have their demand recalculated and if we have overcharged them, they will receive a refund. We are working with NISC to solve this problem. Mr. Chitester also reported we will be looking at a 6 month window for peak demand to help seasonal businesses.

The sanitation department loan has been paid off with an interdepartmental loan.. Bulk trash collection is still going well, and we have picked up over 150,000 pounds of bulk trash since the end of February. Our records indicate 35 people have used this service twice and 4 people have used it more than twice. At this time the earliest date to have it picked up is August 14th.

Mr. Chitester discussed the selling of extra capacity and the possibility of making a reserve of what has been sold to keep our rates lower. This idea was discussed with CFO and she came up with a policy/proposal that will keep these funds in financials but not affect the 6 ½ %. This has been sent to the city attorney.

Miscellaneous general:

The next meeting will be on August 4, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

Closed Session: A Closed Session meeting was held, pursuant to the Sunshine Law, RSMo 1998, Section 610.021, (1) legal actions, cause of action or litigation, and (3) hiring, firing, disciplining, or promoting of particular employees. Mr. Sparks made a motion to enter closed session. Mr. Gurley seconded the motion.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Sparks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gurley seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Attest:

Richard Edgington

Secretary