

City of Decorah Utility Committee meeting minutes
Tuesday, February 5, 2018 – 6:30pm (actual start time was 7:49pm)

The City of Decorah Utility Committee met on Tuesday, February 5, 2018 at 7:49pm. Chair Andy Carlson called the meeting to order, Dan Bellrichard, Johanna Bergan, and Randy Schissel were in attendance.

Others in attendance included Kirk Johnson, Ross Hadley, and Steve Luse. City Manager Chad Bird, City Attorney John Anderson and City Clerk Wanda Hemesath were also in attendance.

Agenda

1. Discussion regarding municipalization of an electric utility

Carlson discussed a storm event in the City of Sumner, IA and raised a question about the costs associated with the municipal utility there.

Dave Berg spoke for Decorah Power and stated that he was unsure of the details in the Sumner case.

Joel Zook noted he had called Sumner and learned their damage due to the August 2016 floods was about \$2 million and repairs may be funded by emergency loans. He also noted Sumner Electric was planning on rate increases in the future to cover expenses.

Luse asked about substations and segregation of rural and urban systems. Berg noted that much of the studies shared relate the issues to interpretation and final decisions still fall with the Iowa Utility Board. Andy Johnson also commented that it is the IUB that decides but either way of separation may be possible.

Hadley commented about the \$11 million in separation costs in the Alliant study. It was noted that Alliant is including an \$11 million line item to separate the rural and urban systems and Decorah Power's study had not. Decorah power had assumed no separation of the system and Alliant believes a separation will be required.

Luse asked why Berg thought the studies were so far apart. Berg noted they simply were based on different assumptions.

The committee asked city staff to place both studies and information on the city website.

The committee set Tuesday, Feb 13, 2018 at 5:45pm for a council work session to further discuss the issues.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.
Respectfully submitted,

