

City of Decorah Council Work Session
Monday, July 26, 2021 – 5:15pm

Agenda

1. Presentation – Mark Lovelace and Karen McLean regarding community input MEU

Karen and Mark advised council of their discussions to date with large employers regarding a possible MEU.

They stated the following points were a common theme:

- *Concern with Reliability, Response, Rate*
- *People want to be heard*
- *Down time is very important*
- *Expertise of Alliant staff is critical along w/reliability and response*
- *Willing to pay higher premiums if response time is reliable – which it is*
- *Industry is more comfortable when their supplier covers a larger, more broad geographic area*
- *Inventory is important too. A large company has the ability to carry a large inventory. No waiting for delivery of parts/equipment*
- *Great benefit from energy efficient programs provided by Alliant*
- *Feel energy partner was more a partner than a supplier*
- *Referendum needs to be clear what it's for: Cost? Control? Sustainability? What are we trying to accomplish?*
- *MEU has too many unknowns – likely result in 2 different feasibility studies and a 3rd one will need to be done.*
- *Trust was a huge factor – whose facts do you trust*
- *Last time there was not much opportunity for dialogue – no opportunity for discussion*
- *Referendum was a pretty divisive issue in community. Most not willing to enter into that again*
- *Decorah should try to partner with Alliant rather than separate*
- *Rather than fight try to work together*
- *Decorah can only take on so much at once – fire station-school-telecommunications-etc. – council needs to prioritize*

Things for council to consider:

- *Start w/smaller project such as telecommunications utility*
- *Alliant will be an unwilling seller. Is City prepared to invest significant amounts of money in this fight*
- *Consider/determine required level of support to move forward*
- *Need to tell residents how this will benefit Decorah*
- *Data needs to be prepared and presented by trusted sources*
- *Need projects that unify*

2. Process to replace City Clerk, Treasurer

General consensus to approach Hinson Consulting to conduct search. Price break as they already have the city profile developed.