

REGULAR MEETING OF KISSIMMEE UTILITY AUTHORITY HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025  
AT 3:30 P.M., BRINSON BOARD ROOM, JAMES C. WELSH ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1701  
WEST CARROLL STREET, KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

Present were Director Manny Ortega, Director Rae Hemphill, Director Melissa Thacker, Director Reginald Hardee, Director Ethel Urbina, Mayor Jackie Espinosa, President & General Manager, Brian Horton, General Counsel, Grant Lacerte and Recording Secretary, Margie Boles.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Director Ortega called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Board members and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**ACTION: Director Hardee motioned, seconded by Director Hemphill. Chairman Ortega advised the question was moved and seconded to update the agenda, to remove candidate #9 under Section L. Board Interview Session, and approve the updated agenda.**

**MOTION PASSED 5 - 0**

D. AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. FLORIDA MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION (FMEA) AND AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION (APPA) LINEMAN RODEO RECOGNITION

David Wolfe, Superintendent of Transmission & Distribution Operations, recognized the following employees for their participation in the FMEA Lineman competition held in Jacksonville in February and the APPA Lineworkers Rodeo held in March at Kansas City, Kansas: Robert Rivera, Kyle Bezold, Josue Sostre, Jacob Frazier, Anthony Alvarez, Austin Franey, Danny Kelly, Cory Breen, Austin Franey, Willie Simmons, Eddie Gluc and Billy White.

The Board offered their congratulations and took a group photo with all the participants and trophies.

2. 25-YEAR SERVICE AWARD – LESLIE GOUTY, SUPERVISOR OF UTILITY BILLING AND COLLECTIONS, CUSTOMER SERVICE

3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR MAY 2025 – CASEY MCCRACKIN, FINANCIAL ANALYST I, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Horton congratulated Casey for being selected employee of the month for May 2025.

E. HEAR THE AUDIENCE

Director Ortega asked if anyone from the public would like to address the Board. In hearing none, the Board moved forward.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

**ACTION: Director Hemphill motioned, seconded by Director Urbina. Chairman Ortega advised the question was moved and seconded to approve item 1 and 2 under the consent agenda.**

**MOTION PASSED 5 - 0**

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 2, 2025 BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

2. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT NO. 3 WITH STUART IRBY COMPANY FOR THE PURCHASE OF WIRE & CABLE (PBA 21-088-CV)

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve contract Amendment No. 3 with Stuart C. Irby Company LLC. for the Purchase of Wire & Cable (PBA 21-088-CV) for a one (1) year**

**contract extension and authorize the President & General Manager to execute all the necessary contractual documents.**

G. PUBLIC HEARING - None

H. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS (REQUIRING NO ACTION)

1. CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS REPORT

Ms. Henderson introduced Mr. Michael Vigeant, CEO of GreatBlue Research.

Mr. Vigeant provided an overview and information on the following areas:

- Ratings of KUA's organizational characteristics
- Satisfaction with customer service
- Satisfaction with KUA's outage notifications
- Importance of and satisfaction with KUA's current self-service digital platforms
- Interest in contributing to the "Good Neighbor Fund"
- Awareness and importance of KUA being a community-owned electric utility
- Awareness of KUA's free community events
- Importance of investing in green energy initiatives
- Awareness of programs and services
- Comparison of findings against previous years
- Demographic profile of respondents

Mr. Vigeant advised that among residential customers, KUA's overall satisfaction rating is 92.5% and among the commercial customers, KUA's overall satisfaction rating is 87.9%.

Director Urbina commented that those commercial customers that did not rate us high do not live within KUA territory. Director Urbina asked if it is worth finding out if those commercial customers rating KUA lower are KUA residential customers. Mr. Vigeant advised it would not hurt.

I. OLD BUSINESS - None

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES FOR RELAYS AND PANELS FOR THE VAN METER SUBSTATION TO KEMCO INDUSTRIES

Larry Mattern, Vice President of Operations, advised the Board that the KUA Board of Directors approved the development of the Van Meter Substation on April 3, 2024. This development will support the northwest district of KUA's service territory.

The substation project has moved from the engineering stage to procurement. Various major components have been identified and purchased including the metal clad switchgear building from Lakeshore Electric. Switchgear includes circuit breakers, switches, potential transformers, and current transformers that connect to the substation. To monitor, operate and protect these components, relay protection and control panels are necessary. Fourteen (14) protection and control panels are required to provide the necessary protection for the substation apparatus. An existing negotiated contract (#4835 OQ) between Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) and KEMCO is available for piggyback utilization for this purchase. KUA staff has reviewed the terms of the contract finding them acceptable. KEMCO has provided an estimate of \$589,409.00 for the required panels.

Director Urbina asked if it has to be with OUC. Mr. Mattern advised we are piggy backing OUC's contract.

**ACTION: Director Urbina made a motion, seconded by Director Hemphill. Chairman Ortega advised the question was moved and seconded to amend and approve award of purchase for fourteen (14) protection and control panels for the new Van Meter substation switchgear to KEMCO Industries, LLC, for \$648,349.90 (including 10% contingency) and**

**authorize the President and General Manager to execute all necessary contract documents; utilizing the existing Contract 4835 OQ between OUC and KEMCO for this purchase.**

**MOTION PASSED 5 - 0**

K. STAFF REPORTS

1. CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Henderson provided an overview on the following items: the Community Connect event; Coffee & Conservation event; the Big Grill usage in the community, KUA's Home EV charge, and surge protection programs.

Ms. Henderson advised that the annual reports are now available online and the hurricane guides have arrived and are available.

Mayor Espinosa asked if Coffee & Conservation event is only for commercial customers. Ms. Henderson advised it is for any group.

**At this time, Director Ortega called a 5-minute recess to prepare for the next item.**

**Director Ortega called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.**

L. BOARD INTERVIEW SESSION

At 4:30 p.m., Mr. Lacerte introduced the first candidate, Mr. Jarod Ruiz. Mr. Horton thanked him for his interest and introduced him to the Board. Mr. Horton asked Mr. Ruiz if he had any questions; in having none, Mr. Horton began the interview.

Mr. Ruiz asked the Board what is the most fulfilling part of being part of the KUA Board. Director Ortega advised, being part of and giving back to the community. Director Urbina advised it is a learning experience.

Mr. Ruiz asked what the biggest concern that is facing our jurisdiction is. Mr. Horton advised providing affordability.

The interview ended at 4:47 p.m. The Board thanked Mr. Ruiz for his interest.

At 4:49 p.m., Mr. Lacerte introduced, Mr. John Perry. Mr. Horton thanked him for his interest and introduced him to the Board. Mr. Horton asked Mr. Perry if he had any questions; in having none, Mr. Horton began the interview. The interview session ended at 5:04 p.m. The Board thanked Mr. Perry for his time.

At 5:07 p.m., Mr. Lacerte introduced, Mr. Jonathan Hernandez. Mr. Horton thanked him for his interest and introduced him to the Board. Mr. Horton asked Mr. Hernandez if he had any questions; in having none, Mr. Horton began the interview. The interview session ended at 5:18 p.m. The Board thanked Mr. Hernandez for his time.

At 5:22 p.m., Mr. Lacerte introduced, Ms. Olga Gonzalez. Mr. Horton thanked her for her interest. Mr. Horton asked Ms. Gonzalez if she had any questions; in having none, Mr. Horton began the interview. The interview session ended at 5:37 p.m. The Board thanked Ms. Gonzalez for her time.

At 5:40 p.m., Mr. Lacerte introduced, Ms. Mary Rose Cox. Mr. Horton thanked her for her interest and introduced her to the Board. Mr. Horton asked Ms. Cox if she had any questions; in having none, Mr. Horton began the interview. The interview session ended at 5:50 p.m. The Board thanked Ms. Cox for her time.

At 5:53 p.m., Mr. Lacerte introduced, Ms. Wanda Roman. Mr. Horton thanked her for her interest and introduced her to the Board. Mr. Horton asked Ms. Roman if she had any questions; in having none, Mr. Horton began the interview. The interview session ended at 6:02 p.m. The Board thanked Ms. Roman for her time.

At 6:05 p.m., Mr. Lacerte introduced, Ms. Michele Lebron. Mr. Horton thanked her for her interest and introduced her to the Board. Mr. Horton asked Ms. Lebron if she had any questions; in having none, Mr. Horton began the interview. The interview session ended at 6:18 p.m. The Board thanked Ms. Lebron for her time.

At 6:21 p.m., Mr. Lacerte introduced, Ms. Maricarmen Labrador. At this time, Adriana Seda, Sr. Communications Specialist, introduced herself to Ms. Labrador and advised that she would act as the interpreter for the interview process.

Mr. Horton introduced the Board to Ms. Labrador. Mr. Horton read each question allowing Ms. Seda to translate. The interview session ended at 6:47 p.m.

Mr. Lacerte advised that the first candidate, Mr. Jarod Ruiz would be unable to hold a position on the Board due to his current position with the County. Mr. Lacerte advised if he is one of the three applicants selected to move forward, a conversation would have to be had to give him the option which to choose.

Mr. Lacerte then addressed the Board concerning the selection of three applicants to send to the City Commission. Mr. Lacerte mentioned that the Board would enter their rankings into a survey to get a sense of how the Board is evaluating them. Mr. Lacerte explained the survey is not the final vote, and the survey results do not eliminate any candidates from the final vote. He added that once the survey is done, the results would be posted and the Board would enter into a robust discussion in consideration of all 8 applicants and then vote on the slate of 3 applicants for recommendation to the Kissimmee City Commission.

After some discussion, an additional survey was provided to the Board to select three candidates. After further discussion, three candidates were selected.

Mr. Lacerte advised that the record now reflects the merits of the candidates.

Director Hardee, Director Ortega, Director Hemphill, and Director Urbina, and Director Thacker selected Ms. Mary Rose Cox, Ms. Michele Lebron and Ms. Olga Gonzalez as the three applicants.

**ACTION: Director Hemphill made a motion, seconded by Director Thacker. Chairman Ortega advised the question was moved and seconded to submit the following three names to the City of Kissimmee Commission for their consideration at their upcoming Commission meeting on June 3, 2025: Michele Lebron, Mary Rose Cox and, Olga Gonzalez.**

**MOTION PASSED 5 – 0**

M. HEAR ATTORNEY, GENERAL MANAGER, DIRECTORS

Grant Lacerte, General Counsel, thanked the Board for their time spent on the interview process. Mr. Lacerte provided updates on legislative bills.

Mr. Horton shared upcoming events and reminded the Board of the APPA National Conference scheduled in June.

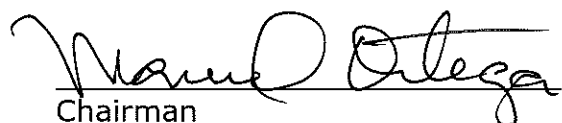
The Board Members thanked staff and employees.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Director Ortega adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.



Secretary

  
Chairman