MALDEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.
COMMUNITY CENTER – 607 N DOUGLAS

Board President Clark Duckett called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT
Board President Duckett	X	
Board Member Bennett	X	
Board Member Coleman	X	
Board Member Trinkler	X	
Members Present		4

OTHERS ATTENDING City Administrator/Utility Director Jeff Mitchell, Electric Distribution Coordinator Todd Jenkins, Power Plant Superintendent Drew Miller, Public Works Superintendent Kurt Krepps, City Council Liaison Phil Santie, City Attorney Jonce Chidister, Board Secretary Cathy Merritt

Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: By Board Member Trinkler to Approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 2, 2026.
SECOND: By Board Member Bennett.
MOTION PASSED

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Electric Department
Mr. Jenkins informed the Board on Friday morning the primary on Ashley St. went bad but the line crew got it fixed and the power back on.

Board Member Trinkler asked if Mr. Jenkins if he felt that his manpower was up to par for what was needed. Mr. Jenkins informed the Board there are days when having another person would help but the crews get the work done.

Power Plant
Mr. Miller informed the Board this time of year there are capability and capacity runs being done to show SPP and NERC what we can do, having to take oil samples of all of the units and also do routine tower maintenance. Mr. Miller informed the Board they had a little hiccup this afternoon on the largest unit with the peilstick, he believes it's a governor issue. Mr. Miller informed the Board he's going to check it out in the morning and see if he can take care of it or if someone needs to be called but he will get with Utility Director Mitchell if it needs to be rebuilt or replaced.

Board Member Trinkler asked Mr. Miller if his manpower was adequate or if he sees changes coming to his department. Mr. Miller informed the Board it's his opinion right now that they're doing okay but he will probably be retiring in 10-12 months and he feels at that point in time someone would need to be hired. Board Member Trinkler asked in his field if he was going to have to bring someone up to speed and if so what would be his estimated time frame. Board Member Trinkler informed the Board the reason he was asking was due to the new budget year and he wondered how soon

someone was needing to be brought on before getting into a bind. Mr. Miller informed the Board he has some personal issues that might force his retirement and with just two operators in their third year, he feels it would be overwhelming to bring a new hire in on the day he'll be leaving. Mr. Miller informed the Board if his retirement does happen he would be open to stay on part-time, maybe 2-3 days per week and then that third employee could be brought in at that time.

Board Member Bennett asked if the two operators he has are capable of doing the job. Mr. Miller informed the Board that both of his operators are good but one of them is exceptionally sharp but you can't cram thirty years of experience into a three-year employment and he believes this one operator can run the day-to-day operations right now if there's no hiccups or problems. Mr. Miller informed the Board he has no plans of leaving Malden and any help he could offer after retirement he would definitely do it. Mr. Miller informed the Board if their decision is not to offer part-time work to him after retirement then a new operator would need to be hired immediately.

Water/Wastewater Department

Mr. Krepps informed the Board they have all of the material for the Davis project but the rain keeps delaying the work. Hopefully, the rain has finished and we can get started and finished.

Mr. Krepps informed the Board Pittman lift station is back on electric. Board President Duckett inquired asked how many leases or rentals there were on pumps. Mr. Krepps informed the Board there are two diesel rental pumps with one at Pittman and the other at Davis.

There was discussion on leasing verses purchasing pumps and the conclusion being a pump could be purchased for the same amount of money being spent on leasing pumps.

Board Member Trinkler asked Mr. Krepps if his manpower was adequate or up to par. Mr. Krepps informed the Board quantity was not his issue but the quality is the issue. Mr. Krepps informed the Board he is trying to get his crew water licensed by January 1, 2027 due to all the changes that will be taking place. Mr. Krepps informed the Board the guys are taking the test for their license but fall a point or two short of the score needed to pass. Mr. Krepps informed the Board he blames DNR and the way they do testing since covid hit. Mr. Krepps explained that when you take a 7–10-day class you then schedule a place to go to take the test (either Cape Girardeau or Jonesboro) and sometimes it takes as long as 90 days so by the time to get to take the test you have forgotten almost all that you learned in class. Mr. Krepps informed the Board DNR won't let you take the test again until you reapply which could take another 90 days and at the first of the year they are going to standardize testing so it will make this test even harder to pass.

There was discussion on chlorination, issues on withdrawing from a tank with no pump running, unhooking old water lines, and hot valving lines.

Office Reports

Mrs. Merritt informed the Board disconnects for nonpayment had to be postponed due to the excessive heat but had the service technician to post notices on the doors and there are 35 accounts still unpaid.

Director Reports

BHMG

Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board the engineer who handled the electric study from BHMG is no longer employed with but he did meet with Mr. Miller and Mr. Jenkins and they went over the study and discussed what they might or might not need.

Cotton Bowl Park

Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board he wanted them to see in writing the offer that was presented to him for the purchase of the Cotton Bowl Park even though the Board had previously voted to present the offer of sale to the City Council.

Evergy

Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board the contract got sent to legal for a wording thing, where we could add or take away a megawatt and a draft of the contract will be given for review. Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board the contract would need to be signed as soon as possible so everything can get set and ready for June of 2027.

Splash Pad

Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board the fence got put up today, the concrete got poured today with the sidewall, the ramp, and the bathrooms are almost completely done, still have to install the hand driers and some other minor things need done but the plumbing is working.

Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board he met with Patty from National Parks who helped with the grant and had taken pictures of the sign that lets the public know that is a Missouri protected park now.

Board Member Bennett inquired if the splash pad was 100 percent grant money. Board Members Trinkler and Bennett requested to see all the cost associated with the project. City Attorney Chidister informed the Board $159,097.00 is grant money which had to be matched and $318,194.00 was the total project cost. City Attorney Chidister explained the Board of Public Works loaned the full project cost to the City and upon completion the grant money of $159,097.00 plus any additional cost that were not in-kind expenses will be paid back to BPW from the general fund and not to exceed 5 years. City Attorney Chidister informed the Board any cost over the project cost of $318,194.00 will be on the City's side.

There was a discussion of the sewer drainage from the splash pad, the amount of water being used and the maintenance and responsibility of the drainage being on the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Financial Reports

Board President Duckett questioned the line item of $56,657.24 for power purchase on page 30 of the financial report and asked Utility Director Mitchell to look it over and check that things got posted.

Director Reports

2026-2027 Budget

Board Member Trinkler asked for clarification of the relationship of the Utility Director to the BPW Board. Board Member Trinkler informed the Board as a board member he knew what his job was but after getting the budget he was unclear. Board Member Trinkler stated he knows the Board answers to an elected body but the BPW Board is in charge of overseeing the largest city budget and assets.

Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board his job is to keep the Board informed of everything that is going on with the utility, to supervise all of the department heads of the utility, and to negotiating contracts among other things. Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board in reference to the budget and with all of the struggles having to do with the financials he had spoken with City Attorney Chidister and the recommendation was to get the budget approved by fiscal year end and if he had waited till the next board meeting the budget approval would have been late. Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board next year would be different and the financials are getting sorted.

There was discussion about things not working out with Ron Huber Accounting, the format of the budget with no other information other than current year, how the Board members had no way of comparing previous years, having been put into a position where the members are having to agree to or oversee figures that can't be seen and being responsible for that money and for having to be put in the position.

City Attorney Chidister informed the Board it might have been a bad call on his part but it was his recommendation to get the budget approved by the City Council and then any changes could be amended due to getting a hit on the audit

rating last year for not having an approved budget at the fiscal year. City Attorney Chidister informed the Board he felt it would be better to adopt the budget, go back after this board met to review those figures on the BPW side then adopt an amended budget and not chance the City getting another hit on the audit rating two years in a row for not having a budget ready for the fiscal year.

Utility Director Mitchell apologized and informed the Board they now have the budget along with the financials and can review it and any changes they want to make in the budget can be amended in July.

Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board he is hiring a bookkeeper which is Sharon Potts' old position and she is currently the treasurer. Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board, Sharon and Cathy have been working diligently on figuring out the financials and getting them sorted out. Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board hiring a bookkeeper is to help Sharon out so she doesn't have to worry about certain things getting done and she can concentrate on the financial side of things. The Board has no issues with a bookkeeper being hired so long as the financials can be done correctly.

Board President Duckett informed the Board he would feel more comfortable if the financials were to be looked over by a CPA, someone to reconcile and audit the BPW general ledger monthly or quarterly. Utility Director Mitchell informed the Board he has contacts he can reach out to and see if they can give him recommendations.

With nothing further to discuss a motion to Adjourn the Regular Session Meeting of June 30, 2026 was entertained.

MOTION: By Board Member Bennett to Adjourn the Regular BPW Session Meeting of June 30, 2026 @ 6:37P.M.
SECOND: By Board Member Coleman.
MOTION PASSED

Adjourned Regular Session at 6:37P.M. on June 30, 2026.

ATTEST:

BOARD SECRETARY

BOARD PRESIDENT