Olson uses training to save man’s life

by Steve Downer

Troy Olson has trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) regularly throughout a 24-year military career and 15 years with the city of Fairmont. At about 11 a.m. Thursday, June 4, he used that training to save a life.

It started like any other day. Olson pulled into Amber Lake Park. There were a handful of vehicles scattered around the parking lot. He got to the unglamorous but necessary task of cleaning the men’s bathroom. Then something unusual happened—a woman, who appeared to be in her 60s, walked in and asked for a blanket. She was frantic. She said her husband had fallen out of their vehicle.

Olson walked quickly out of the building with her.

Lifesaver: see page 4 please

Owatonna Public Utilities (OPU) June 18 unveiled its ‘re-purposed’ downtown power plant, with an open house dedication ceremony. The plant and utility offices were damaged in a September 2010 flood, which led to a process to determine the facility’s future. Strong community support and the iconic status of the building, coupled with a plan that made financial sense, secured the building’s future. For more on the metamorphosis of aging power plant to stunning office space, see pages 6 and 7.

by Steve Downer

Small municipal utilities have small electric crews, if they employ any linemen at all. Halstad Municipal Utilities isn’t particularly unusual, with 337 electric customers, an office person and a three-person crew, including two linemen.

It is unusual in that the linemen are brothers: Lucas Spaeth is the superintendent; Isaac Spaeth is the lineman. Working with your brother on a municipal utility crew in a small town could be a dream come true or it could be a nightmare. So far so good for Halstad and the Spaeth brothers.

“No more wrestling,” Lucas joked.

Lucas is 31 now but already has five years of experience as the Halstad superintendent. Isaac Spaeth, 27, is an apprentice lineman. He was hired Sept. 15. They hail from Mahnomen, 60 miles to the east.

There are four Spaeth siblings.

Brothers: see page 5 please

Halstad Municipal Utilities staff includes, from left to right: Tony Wolf, Isaac and Lucas Spaeth and Alli Tice. Lucas Spaeth is the utility superintendent and younger brother Isaac is a lineman.

Utility operations a family affair for Spaeth brothers in Halstad
MMUA has recently filed comments to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission regarding ongoing dockets.

Combined Heat and Power

MMUA May 15 submitted comments regarding the state’s draft Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Action Plan. MMUA participated in the CHP stakeholder meetings that provided the basis for the Draft Action Plan. MMUA said that the “Minnesota Combined Heat and Power Policies and Potential” report over-emphasized the “technical potential” for 3,049 megawatts of CHP in Minnesota. Rather than breaking down “technical potential” by utility sector, as the report does, MMUA said a more useful analysis would have centered on the “economic potential” of CHP in Minnesota.

More troubling for municipal utilities, however, were certain concepts forwarded by stakeholders or outside groups during the process leading to the Draft CHP Action Plan. One such concept was suggested as a “best practice” in materials prepared for the Minnesota Department of Energy Resources (DER) by the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP), which focused on the subject of standby tariffs. RAP suggested that “customers should be able to procure standby service from the open market.” The DER repeated this suggestion nearly verbatim to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in its Jan. 30 report to the commission regarding a Generic Proceeding on Standby Service Tariffs, despite knowing that Minnesota law states “each electric utility shall have the exclusive right to provide electric service at retail to each and every present and future customer in its assigned service area.”

Municipal electric utilities and their individual, locally-determined tariffs will not be directly affected by the tariffs that will be produced through the PUC’s generic standby tariff proceedings. MMUA thought it prudent, however, to state its concern.

Cogeneration and small power production

MMUA June 5 filed comments in the Matter of a Request for Dispute Resolution with Peoples’ Energy Cooperative under the Cogeneration and Small Power Production Statute.

MMUA supported all of the points made in two filings with the commission by Peoples’ Energy Cooperative (Peoples’). A monthly charge by cooperative electric associations or municipal utilities to recover costs associated with serving net metering or qualifying facilities is not precluded by any law. Peoples’ and all other municipal and cooperative utilities are accountable to all of their customer-owners through their governing boards, city councils or local utility commissions. In regard to certain aspects of their utility operations, federal law governs or Minnesota statutes explicitly supersede local governing authorities. The subject of this proceeding is not one of those special situations, further noted MMUA.

The Legislature has expressly intervened in the rate-setting authorities of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the cooperatives’ and municipal utilities’ boards, councils and commissions with regard to rates paid by all utilities for energy provided by their customers under Minnesota statutes, which appropriately establish state requirements in addition to those established federally under the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA).

The state has not established a billing credit option for customers of cooperative electric associations or municipal utilities (as it has for investor-owned utilities), nor has the state chosen to prohibit or limit cooperative electric associations or municipal utilities from imposing standby charges on net metered or qualifying facilities. State law expressly lays out a specific size threshold below which generating customers may not be charged fees specifically by “public” (investor-owned) utilities, and it lays out specific conditions governing how larger facilities may be charged specifically by these utilities. The legislature has clearly indicated its intent that those limitations are precluded by any law. Peoples’ and all other municipal and cooperative utilities are accountable to all of their customer-owners through their governing boards, city councils or local utility commissions. In regard to certain aspects of their utility operations, federal law governs or Minnesota statutes explicitly supersede local governing authorities. The subject of this proceeding is not one of those special situations, further noted MMUA.

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The Legislature has expressly intervened in the
APPA adopts new policy resolutions at Minneapolis annual convention

Members of the American Public Power Association (APPA) passed eight policy resolutions June 9 at the national conference in Minneapolis. All resolutions were then passed without amendment later that day at the business meeting, and have been added to the APPA Codification of Resolutions.

The resolutions include:

In Support of Legislative and Regulatory Reforms to Protect Utilities That Receive Coal by Rail (co-sponsored by MMUA).

APPA supports legislation that enhances the ability of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to address the plight of captive shippers with regard to both freight and construction and repair; and that current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and federal aviation laws have failed to keep pace with this emerging technology; and that FAA regulations and federal aviation laws should facilitate, not impede, the responsible use of drones by public power utilities.

APPA also supports requiring federal regulatory agencies to clearly define the objective of each mandatory condition on a project to work together in an expedited manner to facilitate the preservation and improvement of a project to work together in an expedited manner to facilitate the preservation and improvement of the environment; and streamlined permitting processes for both existing and new low- and zero-emission projects, and associated transmission and pipeline projects, necessary to meet local, state, regional, and federal energy and climate change-related policies.

APPA also supports requiring federal regulatory agencies with the ability to impose mandatory conditions on a project to work together in an expedited manner to facilitate the preservation and development of low- and zero-emission projects to reduce waste, minimize burdensome administrative requirements, and improve decision making. APPA also supports requiring federal agencies to clearly define the objective of each mandatory condition with an accompanying rationale and explanation required and explanation required of stakeholders submitting mandatory change-related policies.

In Support of the Right of Preference Customers to Be Protected from the Costs of Transmission Projects in the Western Area Power Administration and the Southwestern Area Power Administration areas.

APPA opposes cost increases to Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and Southwest Area Power Administration (SWPA) customers that do not receive the direct benefits and services of transmission enhancements and new transmission construction authorized by federal law. APPA opposes cost increases to WAPA customers who do not receive the direct benefits and services of transmission enhancements under the Transmission Infrastructure Program authorized by section 402 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. APPA urges SWPA and WAPA to adopt the policy of “cost causation,” that is, he who causes the cost pays for it.

In Support of Equitable Treatment of Public Power Utilities Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act Resolution (co-sponsored by MMUA).

APPA supports the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) decision to regulate coal combustion residuals (CCR) as non-hazardous waste under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and it supports legislation to address the flaws in EPA’s final rule on issues such as the lack of state enforcement authority, the lack of state flexibility to establish site-specific corrective action remedies, and the tenuous status of the agency’s determination that CCR is non-hazardous waste.

In Support of Expedited Federal Regulatory Review and Streamlined Permitting Processes.

APPA supports an efficient, streamlined and cost-conscious regulatory review and streamlining permitting process for both existing and new low- and zero-emission projects, and associated transmission and pipeline projects, necessary to support local, state, federal, and climate change-related policies. APPA also supports requiring federal regulatory agencies with the ability to impose mandatory conditions on a project to work together in an expedited manner to facilitate the preservation and development of low- and zero-emission projects to reduce waste, minimize burdensome administrative requirements, and improve decision making. APPA also supports requiring federal agencies to clearly define the objective of each mandatory condition with an accompanying rationale and explanation required of stakeholders submitting mandatory change-related policies.

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APPA supports the belief that decisions related to development of solar power generation should be made at the local or state level, with a transparent discussion of the costs and benefits relative to other generation sources; and that community solar projects, while sometimes more costly than other types of power generation, can provide a relatively more affordable option than rooftop solar, and also can provide much greater reliability.

In Support of Affordable, Reliable Solar Power Deployment.

APPA takes the position that decisions related to deployment of solar power generation should be made at the local or state level, with a transparent discussion of the costs and benefits relative to other generation sources; and that community solar projects, while sometimes more costly than other types of power generation, can provide a relatively more affordable option than rooftop solar, and also can provide much greater reliability.

In Support of Expedited Federal Regulatory Review and Streamlined Permitting Processes.

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In Support of Legislation to Give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission a Formal Role in Determining the Potential Reliability Impacts of Major Federal Regulations.

APPA believes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) should be given the authority to analyze the potential reliability impacts of major proposed and final federal regulations; and APPA supports efforts by Congress to enact legislation that would provide FERC with a formal role in determining the potential reliability impacts of major proposed and final federal regulations.
Lifesaver: Training, muscle memory and desire to help others help save a life

continued from front page

The man had one leg in the cab and one underneath the vehicle, and was face down on the pavement. There was minor bleeding on the nose and face. “I knew I had to get him out” of the vehicle, Olson said. He grabbed the man. He wasn’t breathing. He was cold and blue. Olson handed the windows down, and used cleaning rags to put under her husband’s head.

Olson performed 30 chest compressions. He heard the man’s ribs pop. He put his face down to listen for breath and checked for pulse. There were none. He performed another 30 chest compressions. He put his face down again.

“I could see his eyes twitching a little bit,” Olson said. He felt a pulse and some breaths coming out. He held the man’s hand and prayed, prayed out loud, thanking Jesus.

He asked the woman, “What’s your husband’s name?”

“Jim,” she said.

Olson kept telling Jim he was going to be OK. His wife had called 911. She asked Olson what she could do. He told her to hold Jim’s hand.

“I kept talking to him,” Olson said. Jim’s condition improved. The police arrived and observed. Jim started to talk. He became agitated and began to thrash.

The ambulance was there. Olson helped the paramedics place Jim on a flat stretcher. The ambulance crew and police took it from there.

The woman came over to Olson. She was crying. She hugged him.

“There was a pretty big lump my throat,” Olson said. “God didn’t want him today.” He was glad he could help his daughter, and Jim. He related an incident from Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was “inside the wire.” A group of men, including his interpreter, carried a young boy, perhaps three, up to the barrier. The boy appeared lifeless. “Is he breathing?” Olson asked. He had stripped off his body armor and helmet and was ready to go over the wall to help.

The interpreter said the boy was breathing. The group went around to a gate and came in. The boy wasn’t breathing. He was gone.

“I’ve always gone out of my way to help somebody,” Olson said, whether it’s a car stranded on the side of the road or some other situation. It’s what you would have others do.

After saving Jim, Olson went back to work.

“I wasn’t going to tell anybody,” he said.

“The police told me,” said Nick Lardy, who supervises Olson and the Fairmont parks and street department. “He’s a pretty humble guy. (Jim) was lucky.”


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and works with, however, he ing the people he manages with everybody here.” Know-
izes he “could have issues
the superintendent, he real-
It is possible that issues
into it too bad,” Isaac said.
“Me and Lucas never got
ment, but no argument.”
d said. “We’re pretty close.
“Me and Lucas have always
ting the boss of your brother.”
Isaac doesn’t anticipate any
problems. “When you come
from a contractor, you appre-
what you have,” he said.
He walks three blocks to work and
goes home for lunch.
Hours that used to be spent
in the road can now he spent
with friends and family.
It appears to be working out
well.
During a recent visit, Lu-
cas got into his pickup and
went looking for Isaac, who
was reading meters. Isaac
wasn’t where Lucas thought he
would be—he was farther
along. When they met up, Lu-
cas mentioned that it looked
like Isaac was getting his jog-
ging in. Isaac didn’t say too
much. He did have to take a
few minutes to deliver Meals
on Wheels before taking his
own lunch, though.
Isaac has joined the fire
department and is working
toward becoming a licensed
firefighter. His wife works in
Grand Forks. They are in-
volved in the community.

Steady system improvements
Much of the Halstad elec-
tric system is underground.
The commission budgets
money for upgrades every
year and the crew tackles it as
circumstances allow. They
put in a block of primary dis-
tribution line this spring.
The distribution system
voltage is 4,160 volts. As it is
rebuilt, the crew is installing
dual voltage transformers,
anticipating any future volt-
age upgrade.
Lucas is a journeyman and
knows the Halstad system.
He is intent on keeping his
newest employee current with
training, and methodically
progressing through and learn-
ing the local distribution system.
The crew discusses what it
is going to do throughout the
day. Before line work, there is
a “tailgate” session to discuss
the work plan.
Lucas tells Isaac to work at
his own pace, no rush.
“He’s good to work for,”
Isaac said.
There was some concern
about the brothers being gone
at the same time. But with
three people sharing on-call
duties on a rotating basis,
that is not a new problem.
Mutual aid agreements are
in place, if necessary.
The crew, which performs
a variety of functions, has
also been busy dealing with sewer
work and road work. The wa-
ter and wastewater systems
are also in good condition.
OPU unveils ‘re-purposed’ downtown power plant with community open house

by Steve Downer

A number of attractive and functional municipal utility headquarters buildings have been built in the last two decades. The most striking was officially unveiled Thursday, June 18, as Owatonna Public Utilities (OPU) held an open house dedication ceremony at its ‘re-purposed’ downtown power plant.

“I couldn’t be prouder,” said Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz, a former OPU power plant employee who rose through the ranks to become its general manager.

The plant once used waters from the Straight River for cooling. The river flooded in September 2010. The flood waters damaged pumps and other equipment beyond repair and made much of the office space unusable.

Affected departments were moved into temporary facilities in other buildings. Once the utility established continuity of operations, the question became: how to best bring operations back together under one roof?

The plant itself had long been relegated to running on a standby basis. Decommissioning was expected, sometime in the future. The flood forced its fate to the forefront of utility decision-making.

“The Owatonna Power Plant is a major icon in the city and OPU felt it was important to keep the building if possible,” said OPU General Manager Mark Fritsch said. “Overwhelming community interest. Once the utility established continuity of operations, the question became: how to best bring operations back together under one roof?”

The outside of the building including gauges, and columns co-exist with modern interior lighting. Inside, boiler support beams have been largely preserved. The outside of the building is finished with hardboard and columns co-exist with modern interior lighting.

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For more on the Owatonna Public Utilities re-purposed power plant, go to the News section at www.mmua.org

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Scenes from the OPU
downtown power plant
re-purposing open house

A September 2010 flood forced Owatonna Public Utilities to temporarily vacate its downtown power plant and office space. That disaster was turned into a community jewel, however, by 're-purposing' the plant into utility offices and a variety of utility and community meeting spaces. A display of historical utility items greets a visitor walking along the hallway from the south entrance (pictured below). For more photos, see the 'News' section at www.mmua.org.

The iconic power plant sign was taken down in 2012 for a complete makeover and upgrade. The major upgrade was replacement of neon letters with Light Emitting Diodes (LED) technology. The main portion of the building was constructed in phases including 1940, 1949 and 1969. The middle part of the building, which introduced the arched window to the plant, was built in 1929. The oldest portion of the building, to the left, was constructed in 1924. Below: part of the historical display, and a recent Steele County Historical Society award.

The third floor of the main power plant building has been left unfinished. The space is available for any number of potential uses.

The oldest part of the power plant building, which now serves as the south side entrance, was built in 1924.

OPU staff, including Dave Wavrin, conducted tours of the building.

The customer service area features bright colors and a schematic wall covering.
Three Minnesotans earned APPA national awards

Three Minnesotans won national awards June 9 at the American Public Power Association (APPA) National Conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The three honorees were Brad Roos, General Manager, Marshall Municipal Utilities; Guy Swenson, TEC (Telephone, Electric, Cable) Manager, Barnesville Municipal Utilities; and Jennie Nelson, Customer Service Manager, Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission (ERMU).

Brad Roos received the James D. Donovan Individual Achievement Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the electric utility industry and to public power.

Guy Swenson of Barnesville received an APPA ‘Seven Hats’ Award. This award recognizes managers of small utilities serving fewer than 2,500 meters. These managers have a very small staff and must assume multiple roles. The seven hats they must wear are: planning and design, administration, public relations, field supervision, accounting, human resources, and community leadership.

Swenson spearheaded an automated meter reading system, substation redesign, rate study, and a fiber-to-the-premises project. Under his direction, Barnesville was one of the first members of Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), the city’s wholesale electric provider, to take part in a Municipal Power Advantage study to inform the city council and community of the value of public power. He also puts together the annual budgets and manages the utilities’ funds throughout the year. He recently worked with MRES to conduct a rate study and then used the information from that rate study to work with the city council to establish a set amount to transfer from the utility to the general fund on an annual basis.

He is also always willing to help out in the field when needed. He has assisted with linework on various electric projects and has even helped with meter-reading when regular meter readers were not available.

Jennie Nelson of Elk River received an APPA ‘Rising Star’ Award from APPA board chair Paula DiFonzo and past chair Gary Stauffer.

Elected to the board of the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association in 2007, Nelson has served on the board of APPA and several regional associations. As chair of the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association government relations committee, Roos led the drafting of a public power renewable energy standard in 2007. Many aspects of this standard were incorporated into a state law.

Brad Roos of Marshall Municipal Utilities, center, received an APPA Jaime D. Donovan Individual Achievement Award from DiFonzo and Stauffer.
said solar energy was a public good and that distributed wind and solar energy were much more affordable than other forms of energy.

The Hibbing Public Utilities Commission recently updated its net energy rates. The utility formerly paid 7 cents per kWh for any excess energy produced by solar panels interconnected with its system. The utility made an adjustment to pay 9.4 cents per kWh, reflecting its current residential rates. No customer at this time is producing enough to send energy back to the utility. Current solar customers include the fire department, public library, the state DNR and one residential customer.

A piece of construction equipment struck a power line in Spring Valley on June 9, causing an outage which lasted approximately three hours. The outage affected residents and numerous businesses.

The New Ulm Public Utilities Commission has approved a $50 surcharge for noncompliance with sump pump regulations. The wastewater department will conduct sump pump inspections throughout the city in June. The surcharge would be applied to properties that refuse to respond or correct illegal discharges. Under the regulation, it is unlawful to discharge storm water, surface water, subsurface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water, or unpolished industrial process waters into any sanitary sewer.

The Spring Grove city council recently discussed increased wholesale electric rates, including a peak hour rate charge. As a result, the council discussed replacing its meters with electronic meters that can capture usage at various time intervals. Further rate discussions were also expected.

A jury has awarded nearly $2.5 million to Waverly dairy farmers who say stray voltage from their power company’s faulty equipment cut into their production. After a long legal fight that included a ruling from the Minnesota Supreme Court, a jury in Wright County sided with farm owners against the Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association. They alleged that Wright-Hennepin’s electrical system caused shocks to their cows because it was outdated and poorly maintained.

Committee accepting nominations for MMUA board

The MMUA Nominations and Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the MMUA board of directors. Board members traditionally serve three-year terms. Three current board members will be up for re-election for a second three-year term. Current board members who will be up for re-election include: Elk River Municipal Utilities General Manager and MMUA President-Elect Troy Adams, Hawley Public Utilities Superintendent Kerri Berg, and City of WinthropEDA Director Mark Erickson.

In selecting board nominees, the MMUA Nominations and Awards Committee will consider the following: personal integrity, independence and knowledge of the industry, providing a broad geographic balance on the Board, representing all sizes of member municipalities; willing- ness to commit the time and energy necessary to the organization and its mission; and a demonstration of interest in the affairs of the members and the Association through active participation and in furtherance of the goals and purposes of the Association.

Nominations must be designated representatives of member municipalities to be eligible for election. The Nominating Committee will not discriminate against age, race, sex, sexual preference or national origin in the nominating process.

Forms for submitting nominations to the MMUA board are available in the ‘About’ section of the MMUA website.

If you have any questions, you may contact Troy Adams, MMUA President-Elect and Nominations and Awards Committee chairperson, at 763-441-2020. Nominations will be accepted through July 24, 2015.
General Manager
Delano Municipal Utilities seeks an energetic, experienced and visionary public servant to lead the utility as its General Manager. This position will be responsible for the successful operations of the Electric and Water Departments. DMU offers a competitive salary and benefit package. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Qualities A Successful Candidate Will Possess:
• A broad range of knowledge and experience of design construction, operation, maintenance and sustainability of an electric generation, distribution and transmission system and of a water treatment plant, water tower and water main system.
• Bachelor’s degree from an accredited university and five years’ experience in the utility field of Electric and Water or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
• Exceptional organizational and communication skills to lead the work within the Utility and coordinate with other City departments, plus engage, inform and correspond with the general public.
• Experience with financial statements desirable.
Delano prides itself on a “Spirit of Community” growing at a steady but limited pace to retain the small town atmosphere. Delano also boasts of one of the lowest tax rates in the State of Minnesota. Our schools have been ranked recently in Forbes magazine as the best schools for your housing dollars in the nation. The City of Delano is located within 30 minutes of Downtown Minneapolis. Submit resume: Email to Commission@delanomn.us. To learn more about us or this position call (612) 719-1704. Application deadline is open until filled. EOE.

Job Training and Safety Instructor - Electric
Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) is accepting applications for an Electric Job Training & Safety Instructor.
Responsibilities
• This position will travel throughout the state of Minnesota instructing apprentice and journeyman lineworkers. As a member of the MMUA Safety Team, the successful candidate will have the opportunity to...
mold the new public power workforce and reinforce top journeymen’s work habits daily.

- Job Training & Safety
- Instructor – Electric and General Industry
- Primary instructor for MMUA’s 4 year On-Site On-Demand Lineworker Apprenticeship Program
- Course instructor at MMUA Training Center, Marshall, MN

Position Requirements
- Applicant must have a strong technical lineman background (Journeyman Lineworker)
- Graduate of accredited lineman college preferred
- Applicant must have a strong understanding of safety standards, including OSHA 1910.269 and 1926 Subpart V
- Must have strong planning, organizational and time management skills
- Must have good communication skills and enjoy public speaking
- Applicant must have good computer skills; proficient in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
- Must have good driving record and be willing to travel

Salary DOE EOE

Journey Lineworker
The City of Two Harbors is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Journey Lineworker. Under the general direction of the Electrical Superintendent, the Journey Lineworker performs skilled line and electrical work in the operation, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electrical distribution systems; municipal power, water and wastewater treatment plants, natural gas system and other City operations. Desired minimum qualifications include:

a) Graduation from high school or GED equivalent and b) technical college training in electrical distribution/maintenance or apprenticeships or related work experience determined acceptable by the City. Applications and a position description, which includes a list of duties and responsibilities are available at City Hall, or online at www.ci.two-harbors.mn.us. Salary is $26.47/hr. determined by the 2015 IBEW Local No. 31 Contract. Submit City application and resume by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2015 to: City of Two Harbors, 522 First Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616. Telephone: (218) 834-5631.

Dispatcher
Moorhead Public Service (MPS) is accepting applications for a Dispatcher. This position operates SCADA and load management systems, dispatches electric and water crews, coordinates transmission line switching, monitors electrical systems, operates equipment to bring electrical systems and generation on and offline, and completes operating logs and reports. A two-year associate’s degree in electrical technology or related field and one year of work-related experience are required. Preferred qualifications include training or experience with control systems software, such as SCADA; familiarity with electric schematics, such as one-line diagrams; experience operating high-voltage breakers in switchgear; and/or experience with clearance procedures and training in switching procedures. This position is represented by IBEW. Union contract wage (no cost for single coverage) and benefits apply. The current wage is $30.67 per hour at full scale. Benefits include pension (Minnesota Public Employee Retirement Association), low deductible health insurance (no cost for single coverage), and generous vacation and sick leave. Application form and job description are available at www.MPSUtility.com/employment; at the MPS office in Moorhead City Hall, 500 Center Avenue, Second Floor; or by calling 218.477.8000. Option 4. Applicants MUST complete an MPS Application for Employment to be considered for employment with MPS, EOE. Closing Date: Friday, July 10, 2015.
**MMUA Nominations and Awards Committee seeks individual, system recommendations**

**Doing an outstanding job locally is expected. So it often takes somebody from outside your community to recognize outstanding achievement. At times, recognition of an individual is called for. These individuals can be utility employees, policymakers, or even a citizen. At other times, the utility as a whole should be recognized.**

**In addition, individuals outside of our cities and/or utilities often play significant roles in advancing the interests of public power. These people should also be recognized.**

**Those reasons, in part, are motivating factors behind the MMUA Awards and Recognition program.**

**The MMUA Nominations and Awards Committee and the MMUA Board of Directors have approved the following slate of awards.**

**While eligibility for the awards may vary somewhat, in general, individuals and utilities must represent or be **MMUA Regular Members. Individuals and utilities cannot receive the same award twice. Utilities can earn awards once every five years.**

**All nominations of MMUA’s Awards and Recognition Program will be forwarded to the MMUA Nominations and Awards Committee for their consideration. Awards will be presented at the MMUA Annual Summer Conference Aug. 17-19.**

**MMUA Honorary Lifetime Membership**

This prestigious award symbolizes a long professional life dedicated not only to the advancement of municipal utilities locally, but also for the betterment of our industry on a statewide basis. 

Criteria: Nominees should have:

- a long professional life dedicated to the achievement of excellence in the municipal utility industry.
- strong record of involvement in MMUA and efforts on behalf of the betterment of the industry on a statewide basis.

**Public Service Award**

This award is given to a state or federal elected or appointed official who has been a strong supporter of MMUA and its members. 

Eligibility: Any publicly elected or appointed official at the local, national or state level whose activities have advanced the objectives of public power.

Criteria: Nominees should have:

- made substantial contributions to Niswau;  
- made contributions with lasting impact.

**Community Service Award**

This award is given to an individual who has performed long and well in support of a municipal utility at the local level.

Eligibility: An individual who has performed long and well at the local level, but who may not have the level of involvement with MMUA to merit a lifetime membership.

**Distinguished Service Award**

This award is given to individuals who perform outstanding service in support of the association and its goals.

Eligibility: Individuals who demonstrate leadership on various issues.

Criteria: Performance of outstanding service in support of the association or its goals.

**Rising Star Award**

This award is presented to an up-and-coming person associated with municipal utilities.

Eligibility: An employee of an MMUA member utility who has been employed for five or fewer years in his/her current position.

Criteria: A future leader who has demonstrated a dedication to the goals and principles of municipal utilities through problem solving, creativity, and job knowledge; a professional who performs all job responsibilities in an outstanding manner, achieving high quality results, and demonstrated interest in improving management and operational skills through continuing education.

**System Innovation Award**

This award is given to a utility that has demonstrated leadership and innovation in customer service, energy efficiency or renewables, technology, or other areas.

Eligibility: The utility must be an MMUA regular member system.

Criteria: Nominees should have achievement or sustained performance that:

- was widely recognized in the public power field;
- served to enhance public power’s prestige;
- improved service to their communities;
- represented an earnest, coordinated effort on the part of the system.

**Nomination forms for each award are available in the ‘About’ section of the MMUA’s website. Nominations must be received by July 24, 2015. Please submit nomination forms to MMUA via fax at 763-551-0459, mail to 1925 Harbor Lane N, Suite 400 Plymouth, MN 55447. Nominations may also be emailed to Administrative Assistant Theresa Neddermeyer, tneddermeyer@mmua.org.**