



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Council Session

Item G11

#2010-140 - Approving Agreement with Open Access Technology, Inc. (OATI) Webcares for Transmission Reporting Security

Staff Contact: Gary R. Mader

Council Agenda Memo

From: Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director
Dale Shotkoski, City Attorney

Meeting: May 25, 2010

Subject: Open Access Technology, Inc. (OATI) Webcares
Customer Agreement

Item #'s: G-11

Presenter(s): Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director

Background

The Grand Island Electric Department, like all U.S. electric utilities, is required to meet various federal standards in order to maintain reliability of the national electrical grid. These standards are produced and maintained on a federal level but enforced on a regional level. The Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) is the enforcement organization for the entire state of Nebraska as well as several other states in the upper Midwest. Critical information is passed electronically from the department to MRO at various times throughout the year to demonstrate compliance. MRO is currently working to upgrade this communication process.

Discussion

Until recently, all information that MRO required the Grand Island Electric Department to submit was accomplished via a secure website using a user ID and password. Due to security concerns with this method, MRO is adopting a digital certificate method of authenticating communications. No information will be sent to MRO without the proper digital certificates. Digital certificates are available from Open Access Technology, Inc. (OATI). In order to obtain the necessary digital certificates from OATI, a customer agreement is required. MRO has agreed to pay for the annual fees associated with the digital certificates therefore; Grand Island will not be responsible for any cost associated with this agreement. This agreement simply provides the necessary structure and contact information in order for OATI to issue the digital certificates. Open Access Technology's agreement is considered confidential. A copy of the agreement is provided to Council under separate cover.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand.

The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to a future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the OATI Webcares Customer Agreement be signed to enable the Grand Island Utilities Department to continue submittal of compliance information to the MRO.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the OATI Webcares Customer Agreement.

R E S O L U T I O N 2010-140

WHEREAS, the Grand Island Electric Department is required to meet various federal standards in order to maintain reliability of the national electrical grid; and

WHEREAS, The Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) is the enforcement organization for the entire state of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, critical information is passed electronically from the Utilities Department to MRO at various times throughout the year to demonstrate compliance, and MRO is currently working to upgrade this communication process; and

WHEREAS, MRO is adopting a digital certificate method of authenticating communications and no information will be sent to MRO without the proper certificates; and

WHEREAS, digital certificates are available from Open Access Technology, Inc (OATI); and

WHEREAS, in order to obtain the necessary digital certificates from OATI, a customer agreement is required, and MRO has agreed to pay for the annual fees associated with the digital certificates; and

WHEREAS, the **OATI webCARES CUSTOMER AGREEMENT** between Open Access Technology International, Inc., and the City of Grand Island is at no cost to the City; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City to participate in this service; and

WHEREAS, the proposed agreement has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the **OATI webCARES CUSTOMER AGREEMENT** is hereby approved, and the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute such agreement on behalf of the City of Grand Island.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, May 25, 2010.

Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to Form ☒ _____
May 21, 2010 ☒ City Attorney

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk