

13-1223. Same; powers and duties of board; purchasing agent, powers and duties; governing body of city, powers and duties; ability to sue and be sued; personal liability of member or employee of board. The board of public utilities shall have exclusive control of the daily operation of the water plant and the electric-light plant and shall be charged with the duty of producing and supplying the city and its inhabitants with water and electric energy for domestic and industrial purposes and for public use in the city, and subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 66-104 and 66-131, may sell and dispose of any surplus outside of the city. Except for attorneys, it shall have power to hire and discharge all employees, agents and officers of the water and light departments and fix their compensation. The board may pay the cost of group hospitalization, surgical benefits, and insurance for its employees. The purchasing agent for the board shall purchase all supplies and make all contracts for services and equipment required by the board or any department thereof, and shall keep true and accurate records of all such purchases and contracts. The purchasing agent shall make monthly reports to the board of all purchases made or contracts entered, and for which department such were made. Prior to making a purchase of a commodity other than fuel or entering into a contract for supplies or services, either of which involves an expenditure of more than ten thousand dollars, the purchasing agent shall advertise for bids thereon in a daily newspaper designated by the board. No advertisement for bids shall be required in the event of an emergency or for services requiring specialized products or skills.

The board may in the name of and on behalf of the city take and hold by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise such franchises and real or personal property either within or without the city as may be necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes for which it is established but no real property or improvements thereon shall be sold by the board unless such sale is approved by the governing body of the city.

It shall be the duty of the governing body of the city when requested by the board to enact such ordinances as may be deemed necessary by the city for the protection of the water and light plants, and to institute condemnation proceedings whenever, in the judgment of the city, private property should be taken in the name of the city for water plant or electric-light plant purposes. Both the board and the city may establish all reasonable rules and regulations to protect the rights and property vested in the city and under control of the board. Both the board and the city may issue vouchers or warrants in payment of all claims and accounts incurred by the board for the respective departments, which vouchers or warrants when approved by either the board or the city shall be authority to the city treasurer acting in the capacity of the ex officio treasurer of the board to pay and charge the same against the proper funds. The board also shall have such other powers as may be necessary for the proper discharge of its duties.

The board may sue and be sued but only in the name of and on behalf of the city except it shall have no standing in any court as a party plaintiff in any litigation against the city.

The board or any employee of the board shall be personally liable for any expenditure or loss incurred by the city through failure or refusal of the board, or such employee, to comply with any ordinance adopted by such city under authority granted by this act, or the act of which this section is amendatory.

History: L. 1929, ch. 126, § 4; L. 1967, ch. 105, § 1; L. 1968, ch. 333, § 5; L. 1977, ch. 66, § 3; L. 1980, ch. 72, § 3; April 14.