

efficiency in the engineering department and for tightening loose management in several other departments.

"I can find no justifiable reason for this action," Hendrickson said. "We have enormous public confidence in this utility. The way this is being handled tonight is sick. It is a personality conflict between two board members. I think this is extremely shortsighted."

Freeman supported Hendrickson's objections and abstained in a vote to install Randy Bergren as acting interim general manager.

Solin and Hendrickson exchanged heated remarks before Willis, who voted in favor of firing Reeder, interrupted and said "This is an extremely difficult decision, but I think it is in the best interest of the utility."

Solin did not allow Reeder to

make any comments at the hearing, saying that she was no longer general manager, therefore she was not entitled to make a statement. He attempted to move on to the next item on the evening's agenda.

However, Hendrickson stood up and exclaimed, "If you'll excuse me, I'm feeling rather sick." She and Reeder walked out of the room as the audience gave them both a standing ovation that lasted several minutes.

Outside the meeting, Reeder said she learned only Friday that the board was considering her employment and on Sunday she was asked to resign. She speculated that the board's action stemmed from concern over some far-reaching projects she had initiated that relate to the proposed nine percent rate increase.

The utility is suffering from

an unexpected \$1 million budget deficit for the next year and Reeder said she is taking the blame for the financial problems.

"I've been looking out into the future and I think the board is uncomfortable with that," Reeder said.

Tom Santee, EWEB's public information representative, said the cash flow problems the

utility is having have occurred in the past. He said that considering the utility has a \$100 million annual budget, \$1 million is not a huge deficit.

Santee said the budget has been cut by \$5.5 million to pay for added costs of developing and maintaining power supplies necessary for unexpected economic development.

To break even, EWEB has

called on cash reserves to pay for the remainder of the costs of capital development. These cash reserves have been used in the past to allow the utility to charge customers less than it cost to provide services.

Reeder defended her actions and said, "It is a period of turmoil for utilities. We need new resources to deal with increased competition."

**Hamilton** Continued from Page 1

area would rely more on paper products, he said the purchase of a high-capacity dishwasher from the EMU will improve currently inadequate cleaning facilities.

"We were concerned about using more paper products," Babcock said. "We didn't want the added expense, and we

were also concerned about the environment."

Remodelers will reconstruct the interior of Hamilton cafeteria to improve service, Babcock said. Modernized production facilities will permit food service to offer a wider menu selection.

"We will construct a scatter

bay system, which will allow an expanded menu for students, instead of the current cafeteria line system," Babcock said. "The quality and speed of service will be greatly improved."

The dining area of the cafeteria will also be improved to offer a more pleasing environment to diners, Babcock said.

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