

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA WAS HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ON MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021 AT 3:30 P.M.

Approved

Item 1. - Commission President Marwick called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Present: Commissioners Johnson, Makowsky, Marwick, Petroskey and Teasck
Absent: None
Also Present: Greg French - General Manager; Bill Hafdahl – Assistant General Manager; Mary Johnson – Supervisor – Customer Relations; Charlie Baribeau – Virginia City Council; Representative – Virginia Public Access TV

Item 2 (b) – Mr. French requested the addition of Item 7 (c) – Malone Hall Demolition Engineering Proposal be added to the agenda. He apologized for the late notice stating he had just received the agreement this morning. A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the amended meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3 – None

Item 4 (a) - A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and supported by Commissioner Petrosky that financial resolution No. 5309 - Authorizing the payroll dated July 29, 2021 in the amount of \$102,224.29, direct deposits #34371 through #34435; and the payroll dated August 12, 2021 in the amount of \$105,591.37, direct deposits #34436 through #34500; and the bills dated July 26, 2021 through August 23, 2021 in the amount of \$1,692,549.75, checks #111014 through #111215 and wire and electronic transfers in the amount of \$301,579.71; and Net Payment Adjustments for the month of July 2021 in the amount of \$1826.68; and to approve the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from the July 26, 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5 (a) – Commissioner Marwick stated there were no injuries reported for the month.

Item 6 (a) – Mr. French updated the Commission on the Northside steam conversion stating VPU is ahead of where it was at last year on Southside. He also stated VPU will continue to try and reach those customers who have not begun the process through newspaper ads, mailers, and doorhangers.

Item 6 (b) – Mr. French gave an update on the package boiler stating work on the boiler should be completed by mid-September, however startup may be delayed due to issues getting stainless piping and valves for the RO system. Mr. French further stated he is hopeful everything will be ready by November – December allowing time to test the boiler over the balance of the winter.

Item 7 (a) – A motion was made by Commissioner Petrosky and supported by Commissioner Makowsky to approve the travel request for one lineperson to attend the MMUA Overhead School for Apprentices; September 14-17, 2021 in Marshall, MN. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 (b) – Mr. French informed the Commission that VPU, along with several other MMUA member utilities, assisted Grand Rapids Public Utilities restore electric service following a July 26th storm that caused severe damage to their infrastructure. Mr. French stated some VPU Line Crew staff and trucks were sent July 27th – July 29th, and that all costs incurred are reimbursable through Mutual Aid from the host utility. He further stated VPU's assistance was appreciated by Grand Rapids PUC, and was a good learning opportunity for our staff.

Item 7 (c) – Mr. French reviewed the Malone Hall Demolition Engineering Agreement. He further recommended the Commission approve the engineering proposal, so that VPU can have plans and specifications put together to bid the project. Mr. French stated he is hoping IRRRB will help out with funding, and that the demo can be lined up to be completed at the same time contractors will be demoing the Virginia School. A motion was made by Commissioner Petrosky and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 8 (a) – Mr. French stated the plant is producing 40,000 lbs/hr of steam off #10 gas boiler. He further stated work is being done on #7 coal boiler in preparation for the upcoming heating season. Mr. French also discussed the MN DNR Water Conservation efforts due to the ongoing drought, stating that VPU has received an exemption. Mr. French explained that MN DNR understands VPU water usage is actually helping United Taconite in its efforts to dewater the Rouchleau Pit. Mr. French further assured the Commission that while water supplies are ok right now, VPU is being proactive by having Peterson Well Drilling look at the well in the plant as a back-up for steam production. Finally, Mr. French stated there was a short-term power outage on August 6th. He stated a squirrel got hung up on a line which resulted in the loss of city feeder #5.

Item 8 (b) – Other discussion included VPU/Mt. Iron Power Agreement.

Item 9 – A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Makowsky to adjourn at 3:58 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

James Petroskey, Secretary

Jeff Marwick, President