

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 Item 7 (f) – Waiver of Liability be added to the agenda. 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 Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson that financial resolution No. 5304 - Authorizing the payroll dated February 25, 2021 in the amount of \$111,152.59, direct deposits #33649 through #33715; and the payroll dated March 11, 2021 in the amount of \$113,321.62, direct deposits #33716 through #33781; and the bills dated February 22, 2021 through March 22, 2021 in the amount of \$2,291,750.80, checks #109959 through #110154 and wire and electronic transfers in the amount of \$1,497,443.55; and Net Payment Adjustments for the month of February 2021 in the amount of <\$2976.63>; and to approve the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5 (a) – Mr. French stated there were two injuries reported with one resulting in restrictions and lost time. Mr. French further stated the employee will be able to return to work once restrictions have been lifted.

Item 6 (a) – Mr. French gave an update on disconnects for non-payment. Of the 10 accounts targeted, VPU has heard from all but one customer whose service remains disconnected. About \$27,000 has been collected on the 9 accounts/customers who have responded. A second round of disconnects is set with about 10 accounts targeted. An update will be given at the next meeting.

Item 6 (b) – Mr. French informed the Commission that the drone fly-over was done, on the Highway 53 bridge water line, and revealed a leak somewhere in the middle of the line. VPU will be working with Lakehead since they were involved with the original construction. They will come up from the ground to access the line for evaluation, so an update will be given once they are able to get into a position to evaluate the leak.

Item 6 (c) – Mr. French gave a Northside steam conversion update stating as of March 17th there are 207 customers who still need to convert. He further stated VPU is well ahead of schedule, as last year we were at that number in July on Southside. Mr. French indicated 70 conversions have already been completed since September, as contractors have continued to work throughout the winter. Finally, Mr. French stated that VPU will begin shutting down the Northside steam mains beginning November 1st.

Item 7 (a) – Mr. French reviewed the critical gas day information, as presented, and recommended that VPU waive the purchase gas adjustment for customer reimbursement. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and supported by Commissioner Petroskey. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 (b) – Mr. French discussed the summary of water main and service leaks over the last 5 years. He stated that while it has been suggested that the shutting down of the Southside steam mains has caused an increase in the number of breaks, the actual numbers prove otherwise.

Item 7 (c) – Mr. French stated VPU is looking at a potential demo of Malone Hall, and that he will be meeting with the City Administrator and IRRRB to discuss potential assistance with that process. He further stated he would keep the Commission updated as plans progress.

Item 7 (d) – Mr. French discussed the APPA National Conference reminding the Commission that registration fees, and travel costs have already been budgeted for. A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the cost for Mr. French and any interested commissioners to attend the conference. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 (e) - Mr. French recommended the Commission accept the retirement notice for Tom Mills. A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Teasck to accept the retirement notice and approve the payout of all benefits. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 (f) - A motion was made by Commissioner Teasck and supported by Commissioner Petroskey not to waive the monetary limits on tort coverage. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 8 (a) – Mr. French stated the plant is receiving about 4-5 truckloads of wood per day, and is producing 44,000 lbs/hr of steam off #11 wood boiler with gas stabilizers. He stated VPU is trying to use up the stockpiles that were hauled into the wood yard in preparation for spring road restrictions. Once the inventory is gone, the plant will switch back to burning coal. Mr. French updated the Commission on the Package Boiler stating the permit should be in this week, and VPU expects to have the boiler in place this summer.

Item 8 (b) – Other discussion included a street improvement update by Councilor Baribeau and shutting off steam to the Miners.

Item 9 – A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and supported by Commissioner Petroskey to adjourn at 4:22 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

James Petroskey, Secretary

Jeff Marwick, President