

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, OCTOBER 26, 2020 AT 3:30 P.M.

Item 1. - Commissioner Marwick called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM.

Approved

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 – Item 7 (b) – A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3 – None

Item 4 (a) - A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Makowsky that financial resolution No. 5298 - Authorizing the payroll dated October 8, 2020 in the amount of \$107,608.57, direct deposits #32966 through #33034; and the payroll dated October 22, 2020 in the amount of \$106,921.62, direct deposits #33035 through #33103; and the bills dated September 28, 2020 through October 26, 2020 in the amount of \$1,619,779.96, checks #108647 through #108893 and wire and electronic transfers in the amount of 972,730.91; and Net Payment Adjustments for the month of September 2020 in the amount of \$619.02 be adopted; and to approve the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from the September 28, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Item 5 (b) – Mr. French reiterated that the Steam Conversion Plan for Southside has been to shutoff the steam mains as of October 31, 2020. Mr. French stated the Strategic Planning Committee met, and have decided to hold to that plan. Therefore, the Southside valves will be shutoff on November 2, 2020, the first regular scheduled work day after the shutoff date, per the plan.

Item 6 (a) – Mr. French discussed the power outage that occurred last week. A vehicle hit a power pole near Mesabi Daily News, and the impact was strong enough to drop the pole and affect the Ridgewood sub. Within a couple of hours, VPU crews were able to shift load, and get most customers back on. Power to those customers near the location of the incident was restored by early the next day. Mr. French stated the driver’s insurance company has been contacted, as VPU will file a claim for damages. Finally, Mr. French stated there has been much discussion with Minnesota Power, and studies will be performed on creating further redundancies within the electrical infrastructure.

Item 8 (a) – Mr. French stated that as of last week, the plant has been running #11 wood boiler along with #7 coal boiler. He further stated #5 turbine generator was brought online as an emergency backup, and has been producing about 5 megawatts. Mr. French further stated hydrants have been flushed and winterized, and all gas and water projects wrapped up for the year. The steam crews are still finishing up some projects.

8 (b) – Other discussion included the status of LEA equipment, and the Solar Project.

Item 9 – A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn at 3:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

James Petroskey, Secretary

Jeff Marwick, President