

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, NOVEMBER 22, 2021 AT 3:30 P.M.

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

Approved

Present: Commissioners Johnson, Makowsky, Marwick, Petroskey and Teasck

Absent: None

Also Present: Greg French – General Manager; Bill Hafdahl – Assistant General Manager; Nancee Strgar – Human Resources & Safety Director; Charlie Baribeau – Virginia City Council; Representative – Virginia Public Access TV

Item 2 Mr. French requested the addition for approval of agenda item New Business “b” for the approval of request to attend the APPA Legislative Conference. 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 Teasck and supported by Commissioner Petroskey to approve financial resolution No. 5311 – Authorizing the payroll dated November 4, 2021 in the amount of \$102,052.03, direct deposits #34820 through #34881; and the payroll dated November 18, 2021 in the amount of \$97,599.86, direct deposits #34882 through #34941; and the bills dated October 22, 2021 through November 22, 2021 in the amount of \$1,713,707.29, checks #111648 through #111853; wire and electronic transfers in the amount of \$256,831.28; and Net Payment Adjustments for the month of October 2021 in the amount of \$2,482.71; and to approve the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from the October 25, 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5(a) General Manager French stated there were no injuries reported for the month.

Item 5(b) General Manager French requested acceptance of the Committee of the Whole recommendation to approve the Minnesota Power Electric Service Agreement. Commissioner Petroskey made a motion for approval, supported by Commissioner Makowsky. Motion carried unanimously.
General Manager French then requested acceptance of the Committee of the Whole recommendation to approve the VPU Employee Severance Package; motion to approve was made by Commissioner Makowsky, supported by Commissioner Teasck. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6 None

Item 7(a) A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey, supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the travel request for Aaron Asleson, Director - ESWG to attend 2022 Electrical Distribution Design Workshop; January 11-13, 2022 in Plymouth, MN. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7(b) A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, supported by Commissioner Petroskey to approve the General Manager’s travel to attend the APPA Legislative Conference 2/28/22 through 3/2/22. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 8 Mr. French stated the #10 Gas Boiler is producing 50,000 lbs/hr of steam. November 1, 2021, when the valve was shut, the steam dropped 10,000 lbs. Mr. French thanked the Commission and City Council for their understanding regarding the final shut-down of the steam system on the Northside. It was also noted that the lake will now freeze as VPU is not recirculating water back into the lake. A well located in the basement of the power plant will be used to run the smaller boilers (this is currently being researched). The substation is going in by Tri-Tech on 10th Street South. A slab has been placed and the plan is to have the substation active by the end of this year. Mr. French reported a power pole was struck near Arby’s with approximately \$10,000 damage which will be reimbursed by the vehicle driver’s insurance. Commissioner Petroskey inquired as to the status of the package boiler; Mr. French reported that it should be running by mid-January; the electrical is completed, and are currently waiting for the completion of the RO water system. Mr. French reported that he will be meeting to discuss the demo of Malone Hall; bids will be received in December, and he will be working with the City Administrator to secure IRRRB funds to help finance the demo. Commissioner Teasck asked what will be done with the older boilers – Mr. French stated that they will remain idle in the power plant, and will be available for “back-up” if needed. Mr. French also added that VPU is aiming to not have any LEA assets after June 2023.

Item 9 Commissioner Petroskey made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Johnson supporting. Motion carried Unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm.