

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, MARCH 28, 2022 AT 3:30 P.M.

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

Approved

Present: Commissioners Johnson, Marwick, Petroskey and Teasck  
Absent: Commissioner Makowsky  
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 1 (a) – President Marwick declared the office of President open for nominations. Commissioner Teasck nominated Commissioner Marwick for the office of President. There being no further nominations, Commissioner Marwick called for a vote. Motion carried unanimously appointing Commissioner Marwick to the office of President.

President Marwick declared the office of Vice-President open for nominations. Commissioner Johnson nominated Commissioner Teasck for the office of Vice-President. There being no further nominations, Commissioner Marwick called for a vote. Motion carried unanimously appointing Commissioner Teasck to the office of Vice-President.

President Marwick declared the office of Secretary open for nominations. Commissioner Johnson nominated Commissioner Petroskey for the office of Secretary. There being no further nominations, Commissioner Marwick called for a vote. Motion carried unanimously appointing Commissioner Petroskey to the office of Secretary.

Item 2 – A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Teasck 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 Johnson that financial resolution No. 5318 - Authorizing the payroll dated March 10, 2022 in the amount of \$104,043.41, direct deposits #35360 through #35419; and the payroll dated March 24, 2022 in the amount of \$98,263.52, direct deposits #35420 through #35479; and the bills dated February 28, 2022 through March 28, 2022 in the amount of \$1,378,144.45, checks #112498 through #112688 and wire and electronic transfers in the amount of \$1,566,916.64; and Net Payment Adjustments for the month of February 2022 in the amount of \$1242.86; and to approve the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from the February 28, 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5 (a) – Mr. French reported one injury for the month with no restrictions or lost time.

Item 6 (a) – Mr. French gave a Malone Hall Update reminding the Commission that the project has been budgeted for in the 2023 budget. He further stated the low bid, for the demo portion of the project, came in at approximately \$200,000. He stated there is no IRRRB funding available at this time, however it is his recommendation to award the bid. He said VPU will continue to work with the City to see if any funding becomes available through IRRRB. A motion to award the bid was made by Commissioner Johnson and approved by Commissioner Petroskey. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6 (b) – Mr. French gave a Mesabi Community College Steam Conversion Update stating Otto Maki (The Design Group) gave a preliminary estimate of \$700,000 for the project. He further stated the next step will be to meet with the college to begin discussions about potentially converting the building.

Item 7 (a) – A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the retirement and payout of benefits for Mr. Hafdahl. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. French also stated Cassandra Belak, Accounting Supervisor, will be filling Mr. Hafdahl's position and VPU is hoping to fill the Accounting Supervisor position internally.

Item 7 (b) – Mr. French discussed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street North Water Loop project indicating SEH estimated the project cost at \$200,000. He further mentioned there may be some monies available through the City or VEDA, but asked for Commission approval to bid the project. A motion was made by Petroskey and supported by Johnson to bid the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street North Water Loop project. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 (c) – Mr. French gave a natural gas infrastructure upgrade update stating Aaron Asleson found a potential grant available to help with gas feeds. He further stated Mr. Asleson is researching possible funds/grants that might be available to help offset the cost of replacing old steel gas piping that has been in the ground a long time.

Item 8 (a) – Mr. French gave an operations update stating it is water break season, and that 2 leaks were recently found on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. He further stated the plant is producing approximately 45,000 lbs/hr of steam off #7 coal boiler. He also gave an update on the package boiler stating the unit is almost ready with just some boiler inspector's punch list items to address. He stated the boiler should be more than ready by the summer months.

Item 8 (b) – Other discussion was had on what VPU needs to do to prepare as the push for electric vehicles increases.

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

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

James Petroskey, Secretary

Jeff Marwick, President