

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 26, 2018 AT 4:30 P.M.

Item 1. - Commission President Raplinger called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.

Present: Commissioners Johnson, Marwick, Petroskey and Raplinger

Absent: Commissioners Culbert

Also Present: Greg French – General Manager; Bill Hafdahl – Finance Director; Mary Johnson – Supervisor – Customer Relations; Charlie Baribeau – Virginia City Council; Representative – Virginia Public Access TV

**Approved**

A motion was made by Marwick and supported by Johnson to keep the officer positions the same. No other nominations were made. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2 – President Raplinger stated there were no changes to the agenda.

Item 3 – None

Item 4 – Commissioner Raplinger stated the next LEA meeting was scheduled for March 26, 2018 at 5:30 in Virginia.

Item 5 – (a) and (b) A motion was made by Johnson and supported by Petroskey that financial resolution No. 5256 - Authorizing the payroll dated March 1, 2018 in the amount of \$109,610.48, direct deposits #28264 through #28331 and the payroll dated March 15, 2018 in the amount of \$100,340.34, direct deposits #28332 through #28398; and the bills dated February 26, 2018 through March 26, 2018 in the amount of \$1,524,197.71, checks #101136 through #101333 and wire and electronic transfers in the amount of \$1,767,251.71 be adopted and to approve the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from the February 26, 2018 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6 (a) – Mr. French stated there were two reported injuries for the month resulting in no restrictions or lost time

Item 6 (b -1) – Mr. French stated the Strategic Planning Committee had met quite a while ago and a discussion was held regarding the forced conversion on 8-1/2 Street S. The consensus of the members present was to offer a rebate of 75% of the customers' 2016 steam billings. Mr. French therefore recommended Commission approval of Resolution #5257. A motion to approve the resolution to offer the rebate was made by Marwick and supported by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously

Item 6 (b-2) – Mr. French asked Mr. Hafdahl to discuss the Steam Conversion in regards to low income customers. Mr. Hafdahl stated the Utility could offer a 15% rebate to those customers and receive energy savings through the CIP program. Those customers would then be financing 15% less the cost of their project. He further stated the Utility has sought the services of AEOA to help customers who need help navigating the conversion process with the Utility paying AEOA for that service. A motion to approve the 15% rebate for low income customers affected by the Steam Conversion was made by Johnson and supported by Marwick. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6 (b-3) - Mr. French stated that during the Strategic Planning Session discussion was held regarding those customers who had voluntarily disconnected from steam, paid the fee to do so, but the Utility had not permanently disconnected them from steam. He stated some customers had balances up to \$1000.00. Mr. French asked the Commission to consider giving a rebate of the steam bills paid less \$250.00 which is the minimum cost to voluntarily disconnect from steam. He stated the Utility would shutoff at the valve which would keep us from having to dig to cut and cap those services. A motion to work with impacted customers as recommended was made by Marwick and supported by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 (a) – Commissioner Raplinger stated that a City Councilor had brought to his attention that the City Council puts their meeting packets on their website. Commissioner Raplinger acknowledged that the website would need to be modified, but stated he felt it would reduce the cost of paper, etc and increase transparency with the citizens. A motion was made by Marwick and supported by Petroskey to scan the meeting agenda to the website and then continue to post the approved minutes as is currently being done. Commissioner Raplinger objected to the motion on the table to which Commissioner Marwick responded by suggesting we simplify the process for now and then look at expanding it in the future. Commissioner Johnson agreed. Motion carried however Commissioner Raplinger wanted it noted that he was opposed.

Item 8 (a) – Mr. French informed the Commission that a realtor meeting to talk about the conversion process was scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 1:00 pm at the Elks Club. He further stated if any commissioners were interested in attending they should let him know so he could update Britt at City Hall on a head count. Mr. French also stated that sometime during the month of May a public informational meeting would be held per the request of the City.

Item 9 (a) - Mr. French stated VPU is currently generating 14 megawatts #9 coal and #11 wood boilers. He stated the plant was experiencing some precipitator power issues in the wood boiler, but crews were troubleshooting them. Mr. French also stated the MPUC denied reconsideration of the approval of the termination agreement, but there is a 30 day appeal period to follow. He stated that as of today, April 21<sup>st</sup> would be the day of final approval from the MPUC and that NDPSC approval should come out before then. He further stated that as of today, terminations should be complete by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Item 9 (b) – Mr. Hafdahl gave a CIP update stating 2 rebates were paid out this month. He further stated it was early in the year so Energy Insights was working to rustle up candidates.

Item 10 – A motion to adjourn at 5:16 was made by Petroskey and supported by Marwick. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Bill Culbert, Secretary

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Rob Raplinger, President