

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 23, 2017 AT 3:30 P.M.

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

Present: Commissioners Culbert, Johnson, Marwick and Raplinger

Absent: Jerry Marks

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

**Approved**

Item 2 – Mr. French requested Item 8(b) – Approve New Hire – SWG Coordinator be added to the agenda. Motion to approve the amended agenda by Culbert, supported by Marwick, Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3 – No Appearances

Item 4 – Mr. French stated the LEA Meeting was moved from Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm in Hibbing to Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> following the regular commission meeting.

Item 5 – (a) and (b) A motion was made by Johnson and supported by Marwick that financial resolution No. 5248 - Authorizing the payroll dated September 28, 2017 in the amount of \$114,108.01, check #49092 and direct deposits #27512 through #27579; and the payroll dated October 12, 2017 in the amount of \$102,729.14 and direct deposits #27580 through #27648; and the bills dated September 25, 2017 through October 23, 2017 in the amount of \$998,333.47, checks #100085 through #1000293 and wire and electronic transfers in the amount of \$471,104.08 be adopted and to approve the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from the September 25, 2017 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6 – No injuries were reported during the month of September. Mr. French praised the employees on another great report and Commissioner Raplinger commended Nancy Strgar – Director of HR & Safety in keeping up with all the training.

Item 7 (a) - Mr. French reported on the Highway 53 Project stating the spool pieces were added to the water main on the bridge and two required tests had been completed. He stated the booster station could be running as soon as tomorrow and the plan is to drop the tank half-way and then refill with Virginia water.

Item 7 (b) - Mr. French recommended the Commission give final approval on the Customer Service policy changes as previously reviewed and submitted. Motion to approve by Culbert and supported by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 8 (a) – Mr. French asked for Commission action on Resolution #5249 – Accepting Donation for Solar Array and Electric Car Charging Station. Motion to approve by Culbert and supported by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 8 (b) – Mr. French recommended the Commission approve the hiring of Aaron Asleson to the position of the SWG Coordinator reminding the Commission he has already begun his employment. Motion to approve by Marwick and supported by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. French also extended a big thank you to Don Rindfuss for filling in and giving the Utility the time needed to find Aaron.

Item 9 (a) - Mr. French stated that #9 coal boiler was up and running following a scheduled outage to replace a grate drive. He further stated the Power Plant was back on schedule and up to date operating at 16 megawatts, utilizing the #9 coal and #11 wood boilers. Mr. French updated the Commission on the status of the Termination Agreement and Grant Contract with Xcel Energy stating the date is dependent on the final approval of Minnesota Public Utility Commission (MPUC) and the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC). He stated MPUC timing is anticipated to be around year end and NDPSC is currently scheduled to act on February 22, 2018.

Item 9 (b) - Commissioner Raplinger questioned the water losses. Mr. Hafdahl indicated he would look into it and follow-up at the next meeting, but he believed it was most likely attributed to the flushing of hydrants in Midway that was necessary before utilizing the new water line. Commissioner Culbert questioned the status of the steam disconnects on 8-1/2 Street S and Mr. French stated the Utility would be shutting off the main this week. Finally Commissioner Raplinger, on behalf of the Commission, extended deep gratitude to Don Rindfuss for filling in and helping the Utility in such a great way.

Item 10 – A motion to adjourn at 3:47 was made by Culbert and supported by Marwick. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Bill Culbert, Secretary

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Rob Raplinger, President