

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, AUGUST 28, 2023 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, and Petroskey
Absent: None
Also Present: Greg French – General Manager; Cassandra Belak – Director of Finance; Mary Johnson – Supervisor – Customer Relations; Liz Motley – Virginia City Council; Representative – Virginia Public Access TV

Item 2 – Mr. French stated the agenda has been amended to include Item 7 (a) – Approve Employee Retirement. A 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) and (b) - A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve financial resolution No. 5340 - Authorizing the payroll dated July 27, 2023 in the amount of \$87,407.67, direct deposits #37289 through #37338; and the payroll dated August 10, 2023 in the amount of \$84,742.63, direct deposits #37339 through #37387; and the payroll dated August 24, 2023 in the amount of \$88,889.93, direct deposits #37388 through #37439; and the bills dated July 24, 2023 through August 25, 2023 in the amount of \$1,151,261.46, checks #115379 through #115564 and wire and electronic transfers in the amount of \$1,034,809.50; and Net Payment Adjustments for the month of July 2023 in the amount of \$3,648.41; and the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from the July 24, 2023 meeting.

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

Item 6 (a) – Mr. French gave an update stating the 14” steam lines to the College have been shut down. He further stated the timing couldn’t have been better as work being done to the bike trail (from the plant to 9th Ave S) revealed the lines underneath the trail were severely deteriorated. The contractors could not be delayed, so \$51,000 was approved to cover the cost to remove the lines. Additionally, Mr. French stated VPU crews will remove the lines on 9th Ave S from the college manhole to the Parkview School.

Item 6 (b) – Mr. French followed up on the prior meeting’s discussion concerning the superheated boilers. He recommended the Commission move to decommission the superheated boilers. A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson to decommission the superheated boilers (#10 gas & #11 wood/gas). Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6 (c) – Mr. French gave an update stating the new 306 Transformer is on the ground in the plant yard. He further stated parts have been coming in, and VPU is hoping to have it online by late fall.

Item 6 (d) – A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve Resolution #5341 - authorizing VPU to put the funds from the LEA asset buyout to the general fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 (a) – A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Makowsky to approve the retirement and payout of benefits for Doug Jarvela. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. French stated Doug has been a wonderful employee and has been with VPU for 26 years.

Item 8 (a) – Mr. French gave an operations update stating the plant has been running approximately 15,000 lbs/hr of steam utilizing the package boilers, alternating between boiler #1 and #2 every two weeks. Additionally, Mr. French stated that the EPA was onsite for a full day on August 14th, and visited all of VPU’s water locations along with VPU Staff, and People Services. Mr. French stated the EPA is conducting these visits in response to what occurred in Flint, MI, and will be visiting Duluth and Hibbing as well. He further stated a full report is expected in the next couple of months. Finally, Mr. French stated that water tower projects are all complete, and all towers are back online.

Item 8 (b) – None

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

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

James Petroskey, Secretary

Jeff Marwick, President