

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 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.

Item 1. - Commission President Marwick called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Approved

Present: Commissioners Hale, 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 noted the addition of Item 7(b) – Approve to Advertise for Bids - #11 Boiler to the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Hale 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. 5345 - Authorizing the payroll dated November 30, 2023 in the amount of \$89,712.59, direct deposits #37734 through #37781; and the payroll dated December 14, 2023 in the amount of \$91,571.27, direct deposits #37782 through #37829; and the bills dated November 27, 2023 through December 22, 2023 in the amount of \$946,901.54, checks #116036 through #116194 and wire and electronic transfers in the amount of \$1,350,236.09; and Net Payment Adjustments for the month of November 2023 in the amount of \$3,370.61; and the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from the November 27, 2023 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Item 5 (b) – A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the 2024 Budget. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. French stated the budget includes a 2.5% increase in gas and steam rates noting there hasn't been a base rate gas increase in 20+ years. Additionally, he stated water will increase by \$.50/unit. Mr. French noted that as city sewer rates have been increasing, water consumption/revenue has been decreasing likely due to customers conserving.

Item 6 (a) – None

Item 7 (a) – A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the 2023 write offs in the amount of \$76,887.62, noting the general accounts portion was \$6,783.80 of the total, while tax forfeitures were \$20,003.49, and clearing the books of a big commercial account dating back to 2006 was the remaining \$49,900.33. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 (b) – A motion was made by Commissioner Petroskey and supported by Johnson to approve the advertising of bids to sell the #10 gas boiler. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. French noted the minimum bid is set at \$200,000 and is to include a plan for disconnection and removal of the boiler, as well as restoration to building.

Item 8 (a) – Mr. French gave an operations update stating the plant is still running steam utilizing the package boilers, alternating between boiler #1 and #2 every two weeks. He added when production reaches approximately 45,000 lbs/hr VPU will utilize both boilers.

Item 8 (b) – Additional discussion included the potential sale of Minnesota Power as it relates to the NEMPAA contract. Additionally, further discussion was had regarding the need to expedite discussions with the hospital regarding abandonment of the line that feeds their building, and ultimately the future abandonment of the core steam district. A Committee of the Whole meeting will be scheduled within the next month for further discussion.

Item (9) – A motion was made by Commissioner Hale and supported by Commissioner Petroskey to adjourn at 10:29 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

James Petroskey, Secretary

Jeff Marwick, President