

**DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 19, 2019**

**Members Present:** Councilor Arik Forsman, Howard Jacobson, Chris McIntosh, Rob Prusak, Carrie Ryan, Councilor Joel Sipress; Councilor Em Westerlund arrived at 5:18 p.m.

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Bob Asleson, Jim Benning, Leanna Gilbert, Eric Shaffer, Glenn Strid, Kerry Venier

**Call to Order:** President Prusak called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**Approval of previous meeting minutes**

**New business:**

**Middle booster station**

Eric Shaffer reported that we are still reviewing the Middle booster station and trying to define the scope of the project. We should have more information in March. We will probably have a tour when it gets warmer. Staff has been discussing generators for pump stations. We could also bring two separate feeds to Middle and Woodland booster stations.

**Updates from staff**

Jim Benning mentioned the update to debt service in the meeting packets. He also mentioned an automatic sewer rate decrease of -1.006% effective in March due to WLSSD treatment cost adjustments. Staff asked for thoughts on an automatic water rate adjustment for MN Power electrical charges. After some discussion, staff was instructed to get some preliminary information. There was also some discussion about energy efficiencies for the water system. Eric Shaffer reported that there have been about 25 water main breaks in the last couple of weeks. There have only been a couple of frozen services so far. Vice President Ryan asked how the gas system held up during the polar vortex. Eric Shaffer stated that the new line in 4<sup>th</sup> Street made all the difference. We adjusted a couple of regulator stations after the first cold days. We maintained pressure in the most critical area on the coldest night. Jim Benning stated that we broke a record for most gas sold two days in a row. We did have to curtail the steam plant.

**Upcoming Council actions**

No upcoming actions were mentioned. There will be some upcoming changes to councilors on the commission.

**Commissioner questions and comments**

President Prusak welcomed Commissioner Jacobson and thanked him for volunteering. He also said that he is sorry that Commissioner Westerlund will be leaving.

**Preview of upcoming business**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Staff will have more information on Middle booster station.

**Known absences for future meetings**

None were mentioned.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.