



December 7, 2020
Meeting No. 02

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION BOARD MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Date and Time: | Monday December 7, 2020 – 12 p.m. | |
| Location: | Via Zoom Conference | |
| Members Present: | Mark Howson, Chair | Christian Provenzano |
| Regrets: | | |
| Staff Present: | Rob Brewer, President & CEO Kevin Bell, VP Customer Engagement & Business Development Mark Faight, Director, Finance Jairus Patterson, Communications Coordinator | Trina Avery, Executive Assistant Andrew Hallett, Director, Water Operations Claudio Stefano, Chief Operating Officer Katie Elliott, Manager Communications |
| Guests: | D. Helwig, Village Media | |

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

M. Howson called the meeting to order at 12 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a **MOTION** moved by C. Provenzano, seconded by M. Howson, and carried:
The Board approved the Agenda as presented.

3.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts were declared.

4.0 SAFETY MOMENT

Winter safety was discussed.

5.0 OPEN SESSION MINUTES – August 5, 2020

On a **MOTION** moved by M. Howson, seconded by C. Provenzano and carried:
The Commission approved the open session minutes dated August 5, 2020.

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.



December 7, 2020
Meeting No. 02

7.0 OPEN SESSION ITEMS

7.1 2021 Budget

M. Faught reviewed the 2021 Budget. Highlighting:

- Expense and Capital Expenditure Elements based on the Water Financial Plan (KPMG)
- Rate Mitigation Strategy
- Net Operating Margin flatlined to 2020 Budget level

Questions/Discussion:

C. Provenzano identified two items of note. Both for recognition and for the community to be aware.

1. The innovation and initiative shown by the PUC in finding new and innovative ways to do things that could in the long run not only save money but become a potential revenue stream for the PUC (with reference to the SIPP project) is very impressive. A thank you to the leadership at PUC and the entire team for being on leading edge.
2. PUC has a long-term plan to invest in our capital assets and is doing this as best we can year over year. Increases are projected annually, the increase for this year was supposed to be 6.5%, PUC Staff have suggested that this year it be decreased to 2.5% recognizing the challenges some are facing this year in the community. Recognize staff at PUC for lessening burden to community.

M. Howson echoed the Mayors positive comments adding that he is looking forward to the SIPP process and how it may flatten the capital requirements and allow more capital work to be accomplished. This is an indication of how PUC Staff are keeping on top of new innovative ways to accomplish this.

On a **MOTION** moved by C. Provenzano seconded by M. Howson, and carried:

The Public Utilities Commission of the City of SSM approved the 2021 Budget of the Commission.

7.2 2021 Water Rates

M. Faught provided a brief overview of the water rates by-law for 2021.

On a **MOTION** moved by C. Provenzano seconded by M. Howson, and carried:

The Public Utilities Commission of the City of Sault Ste. Marie approved the 2021 Water Rates By-Law 416 – A By-Law to Establish New Water Rates for 2021.

7.3 Actions to Support Customers and Staff During Covid-19 Pandemic



December 7, 2020

Meeting No. 02

R. Brewer provided an overview of the impacts of Covid and interim actions taken to support customers and staff.

The Commission noted that the actions taken are in line with what Commissioners would agree with and congratulated PUC staff. It was appreciated that Senior staff kept the Commission up to date as these items were unfolding.

On a **MOTION** moved by M. Howson, seconded by C. Provenzano, and carried:

The Public Utilities Commission of the City of SSM approved the recommendation from the Board of Directors of PUC Services Inc. to endorse the interim measures and recommendations by PUC Staff for the actions as presented.

8.0 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES - None

None noted.

9.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

n/a

10.0 NEW BUSINESS

None noted.

11.0 NEXT MEETING


At the call of the Chair.

12.0 CLOSED SESSION WITHOUT STAFF


Not required.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



Chair



Secretary