



Commission Members Present: Steve Daniels, Joe King, Jeff Liverman, Bob Schasse, Fred Shanks, Phillip Smith, Jim Turpin, and Bob Vaughan

Commission Members Absent:

Staff Present: Barbara Dameron, Barry Dunkley, Carolyn Evans, Jim Harr, Jennifer Holley, Patricia Knutti, Nate Lewis, and Clarke Whitfield

Others Present: Dr. Gary Miller, Danville City Council

Call to Order & Announcements

Chairman Vaughan opened the meeting and asked that the attendance be recorded. As a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order.

Discussion / Business Items

Minutes of February 28, 2011 Commission Meeting: Chairman Vaughan asked for any corrections, deletions, or adjustments to the minutes of February 28, 2011. There were none. Mr. Daniels made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Schasse seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Review of Utilities' Financial Statements: Patricia Knutti, Finance's Senior Accountant, reviewed the January 2011 financial statements. Ms. Knutti said that all funds are performing close to or better than budget.

Mr. Turpin asked if the fuel cost information would be distributed with the agendas. Barbara Dameron replied that she would follow up to insure that information was provided in the future.

Mr. Daniels questioned why the bad debt figures had been consistently down each month. Ms. Dameron answered that they were lower due to changes in collection and reporting practices and fewer bankruptcies than in previous years.

Danville Utilities Energy Efficiency Plan Update: Nate Lewis explained that the goals of the Energy Efficiency Plan are to reduce rates for all customers and to become an energy efficiency leader in Virginia. Mr. Lewis stated that Danville Utilities had been approved to be an Energy Star partner which will allow Danville to use all of the Energy Star resources available.

Mr. Lewis informed the Commissioners that The Center for Research had been chosen to conduct a residential appliance saturation survey. Mr. Lewis also said that Nextant was hired to implement a residential rebate program. Mr. Lewis added that representatives from both companies will at the April meeting to present information to the Commission.

Mr. Lewis explained that the initial plan included a residential audit program but the main focus had shifted from that due to the lack of return on cost. A request for proposals has been issued, Mr. Lewis said, to select a firm to oversee a commercial audit program and five municipal buildings had been chosen for audits.

Mr. Lewis also said that an Energy Efficiency Capacity Resource Rider may be developed that would offer incentives to industrial customers that implement improvements to save 100kW or more.

Mr. Liverman stressed that the descriptions needed to be phrased in a way that the public understands that all customers will benefit from these programs by lower energy costs.

Review of Changes to Danville's Commercial Deposit Policies: Carolyn Evans discussed changes to the Service Policies and Procedures document. Ms. Evans explained that the revised Commercial Deposit section included clarifications suggested by the City Attorney.

Ms. Evans explained that her department has been granted authority by the Director of Utilities to work with commercial customers regarding their deposits. Mr. Shanks stated that, although the changes are helpful, he would like to see reduced charges for smaller business customers. Ms. Evans replied that, if no history is available, Customer Service will try to find a similar business on which to base the deposit amount.

Mr. Smith made a motion that the Danville Utility Commission approve the changes to requirements for commercial security deposits and these revisions be added to the most recently approved Service Policies and Procedures.

Mr. Schasse seconded the motion. A vote was cast and the motion passed unanimously.

Communications

Communications from City Manager: There were none.

Communications from Utilities Staff: Nate Lewis told the Commissioners that Danville Utilities received the American Public Power Association's Electric Utility Safety Award for Excellence. Mr. Lewis said last year there were no work related injuries resulting in lost time.

Ms. Evans informed the Commissioners that tentatively June 1st, County customers will transition from bi-monthly to monthly bills. Ms. Evans said that this information will be disseminated through posters, bill inserts, public service announcements, media releases and letters to the customers.

Jennifer Holley told the Commissioners that her division has been working on reports requested by Government agencies and preparing the budget to go to City Council.

Barry Dunkley spoke on an upcoming meeting addressing the proposed regulations on the land application of biosolids. Mr. Turpin voiced that Danville needs to fight the regulations as long as research shows it is safe because the regulations would double the cost of disposal.

Mr. Dunkley also said that the Airside force main was ruptured recently during the pigging of the main. Public Works repaired the two ruptures however there was an overflow into a nearby creek, Mr. Dunkley stated, and The Department of Environmental Quality will be contacting Danville Utilities on this matter.

Mr. Dunkley also discussed the recent permit application from the town of Milton to withdraw water from the Dan River and the effects on the river if approved.

Dr. Miller asked if the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program was still receiving donations. Joe King stated that donations are steady and there was a status report sent to City Council recently.

Communications from Commissioners: Mr. Smith inquired when the AMI meters installations would be complete. Jim Harr explained that they are waiting on approximately 2000 industrial meters to arrive to complete the installations. Mr. Harr explained that all but a few of the residential meters are installed and operational.

Director's Report: Jim Harr stated the next meeting would be April 11th due to the Easter holiday and there would be presentations on the energy efficiency plan. Mr. Harr said that Doug Handley would also be presenting rate information.

Public Comments: There were none.

Adjournment

Chairman Vaughan stated the next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2011. There being no further business, Chairman Vaughan adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

April 11, 2010
Date Approved

Chairman
Danville Utility Commission

Submitted by Patti OKeefe
Secretary to the DUC