

MINUTES OF GAS & ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

A meeting of the Holyoke Gas and Electric Department was held on September 24, 2024, at 5:15 P.M. in the Department's offices. In attendance were Commissioners Hoey, Sutter and Marrero; Manager Lavelle; Superintendents Steve Roy and Brian Roy; Brooke McMahon, Kirk Jonah, Kate Sullivan, and Attorney John Ferriter.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hoey called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.

MINUTES:

On a motion from Commissioner Marrero, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes from August 27, 2024.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF MANAGER:

Financial Report:

Ms. McMahon then reviewed the draft July 2024 financial statements and gave a brief update on the Enterprise Resource Planning system conversion. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

DIVISION REPORTS:

GAS DIVISION

Mr. Brian Roy reported that wholesale natural gas purchases continue consistent with the hedging plan for the current 12-month procurement window. He stated that 52% of winter ('24-'25) gas supply is locked in price and he noted that Castleton Commodities International (CCI) submitted the most favorable proposal for asset management services and that a contract with CCI is expected to be executed by the end of the month. He reported that unit sales are down approximately 5% below plan, year-to-date, due to mild weather. He further reported that staff continues to develop the design of the LNG vaporizer upgrade for 2025, and that Invitations for Bid (IFB) have been issued for control valves and the IFB for glycol heaters is expected to be issued in October. He then reviewed the September natural gas rate comparisons and reported that the Department remains very competitive in all rate classes.

Mr. Roy reported that distribution crews continue with work to replace services in the Dartmouth and Jefferson Street area and that work is scheduled to be completed at the end of September. He noted that crews would then move to Cleveland and Yale Streets to replace mains and services ahead of planned City paving work. He also reported that bare steel service replacements are progressing according to plan and that there are currently three leaks on file that have been scheduled for repair. He then gave an update on gas moratorium statistics updating, ongoing DPU audits, PSMS implementation, and the PHMSA grant process. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

POWER SUPPLY

Mr. Steve Roy reviewed the September electric rate comparisons and reported that the Department remains competitive in all rate classes compared to regional peers. He then reviewed the September

Mark-to-Market report and reported that all transactions are within policy limits. He also gave an update on peak load reduction activities and noted that the August peak occurred on August 1st, hour-ending 18, and that 13.632 MW were shed via Department load reducers. He then noted that the Energy Services Agreement (ESA) has been executed with Agilitas for the 3 MW/11.44 MWh battery system to be installed on Kelly Way with a target commercial operation date by 12/31/25. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Roy reported that the last vacuum switch has been removed from the distribution system and that crews have completed the planned installation of 2,500 AMI meters for the year. He then reported that crews continue with work to install underground services on Vadnais Street to eliminate backyard services in that area and that the work is scheduled to be completed by the end of October. He also noted that crews would be working in the area of University Park apartments for the next four to six weeks to replace conductors. He also gave a brief update on several other ongoing electric distribution and transmission projects. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC PRODUCTION

Mr. Roy stated that hydro production is approximately 24.8% ahead of plan through August due to favorable river flow, and he noted that September flows have been behind plan due to low river flows. He then gave an update on capital projects, including the Hadley Falls Unit #2 rehabilitation project and Cobble Mountain maintenance activities. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jonah gave an update on the status of sales activity and ongoing maintenance projects. He reported that the network upgrade to 200 Gb has been substantially completed with no major unplanned customer interruptions. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Sullivan gave an update on several state and federal grant applications that have been submitted, and she gave an update on upcoming outreach activities including the Public Power and Public Natural Gas Week event that is scheduled for October 9th. She also gave an update on recent Green Team activities and the various grant funding opportunities that are being pursued. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST - INTERNATIONAL VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME: Mr.

Lavelle reported that the Department received a sponsorship request from the International Volleyball Hall of Fame requesting that the Department continue its Corporate Partner Sponsorship level, consistent with the past several years. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the sponsorship as requested.

BID AUTHORIZATIONS: None

BIDS RECEIVED:

ELECTRIC UNDERGROUND CABLE: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the bid for Electric Underground Cable to Prysmian Cables and Systems USA, LLC, the low bidder meeting all requirements of the solicitation. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to award the bid per the recommendation of management.

637 LINE RECONDUCTORING - COBBLE MOUNTAIN STATION: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the bid for the 637 Line Reconductoring- Cobble Mountain Station to Power Line Contractors, Inc., the lowest bidder meeting all requirements of the solicitation. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted award the bid per the recommendation of management.

2024 ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the bid for 2024 Electric Distribution Transformers to EL Flowers/UUS, the lowest bidder meeting all requirements of the solicitation. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted award the bid per the recommendation of management.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 09/20/24 – Draft Commission Meeting Minutes from 08/27/24
- 08/28/24 – JL/DD/Financial Statements, Balance Sheet & Summary Report – July 2024
- 09/04/24 – JL/KC/Sponsorship Request – International Volleyball Hall of Fame Sponsorship
- 09/05/24 – SR/VO/Bid Recommendation– Electric Underground Cable - #2 AWG EPR CU Conductor
- 09/17/24 – SR/SL/Bid Recommendation – 637 Line Reconductoring Cobble Mountain Station
- 09/17/24 – SR/VO/Bid Recommendation – 2024 Electric Distribution Transformers

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would take place on Tuesday, November 19th at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Commissioner Marrero, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the Meeting at 6:15 P.M.

HG&E Commission