

MINUTES OF GAS & ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 14, 2018

A meeting of the Holyoke Gas and Electric Department was held on August 14, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. in the Department's offices. In attendance were Commissioners Hoey, Griffin and Sutter; Manager Lavelle; Superintendents Beauregard and Ducheny; Kirk Jonah, Brooke McMahon, Kate Sullivan, Jim Jackowski, and Attorney John Ferriter.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Hoey called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

MINUTES:

On a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes from July 17, 2018.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF MANAGER:

Financial Report:

Ms. McMahon reviewed the June financial statements. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

DIVISION REPORTS:

GAS DIVISION

Mr. Lavelle reported that wholesale natural gas procurements continue consistent with the hedging plan for the current 12-month procurement window. He also presented the August natural gas rate comparisons and noted that the Department is very competitive in all classes. He reported that planned bare steel service and cast iron main replacements are ongoing according to plan and noted that the CMA inter-connect project schedule was uncertain at present as Columbia Gas is still working to obtain required approvals. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

Power Supply:

Mr. Lavelle reported that the Clean Energy Bill signed by Governor Baker on August 9th did not include several provisions that would have had a significant adverse impact on HG&E ratepayers, and he noted that those provisions will most certainly be filed again in the next legislative session. He then gave a brief overview of key provisions in the final Bill. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

Mr. Beauregard reviewed the August electric rate comparisons and noted that the Department remains very competitive in all rate classes. He also reviewed the August mark to market report for power supply and stated that all transactions are within policy limits. He gave an update on peak load reduction efforts and noted that the Mt. Tom Battery Storage System was scheduled to be commercially operational by September 1st. He further reported that staff was in process of negotiating a power supply hedge with Nextera Energy for certain long-term customer contracts. Commissioner Hoey disclosed that his employer has performed work for Nextera unrelated to the power supply contract. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Beauregard gave an update on the Holyoke 17L Substation construction and noted that the project is on schedule. He also gave an update on efforts to decommission Prospect Substation and reported that planned maintenance activities at both Ingleside and North Canal substations have been recently completed. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC PRODUCTION

Mr. Ducheny gave an update on the Voith Hydro warranty repairs on Hadley Falls Unit #1. He stated that Voith believes that they have found and fixed the cause of the minor oil leak and that the unit is expected to be back in service by September 1st. He also gave an update on the City#2 unit overhaul and reported that the unit is expected to be returned to service by October 1st. He further reported that July production was approximately 15% below plan and that 43 sturgeon have been passed to date, with 22 of those being radio tagged. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jonah gave a brief update on commercial sales and ongoing projects. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

Marketing and Communications:

Ms. Sullivan gave an update on various marketing and communications activities including a planned press conference by Engie in September to cut the ribbon on the Mt. Tom Battery Storage System, planned activities for Public Power Week, MassCEC Grant for Clean Energy Day awarded to Holyoke Public Schools, Planned Safety and Energy Conservation Program outreach, and the Employee Rewards program for employees that demonstrate notable efforts in customer service or cost containment and efficiency improvements. She also noted that the employee rewards program supports local businesses through the use of the Chamber of Commerce Gift Cards. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST- HPD ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION:

Mr. Lavelle reported that the Department received a sponsorship request in the amount of \$1,500 from Chief Febo of the Holyoke Police Department for the annual Senior Citizen Holiday Celebration and he recommended that it be approved. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to approve the request per the recommendation of management.

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST – CELEBRATE HOLYOKE: Mr. Lavelle reported that the Department received a sponsorship request in the amount of \$5,000 from the organizers of the Celebrate Holyoke festival and he recommended that it be approved. He further stated that the sponsorship would be managed by the Greater Holyoke Chamber Centennial Foundation. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to approve the request per the recommendation of management.

BID AUTHORIZATIONS:

PROSPECT 24B-1X SURPLUS TRANSFORMER: Mr. Lavelle requested authorization to solicit bids for the Prospect Substation 24B-1X Transformer which is no longer needed as the substation has been decommissioned. He stated that the Department sold a similar unit in 2015 for just over \$18,000. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to authorize the bid.

BIDS RECEIVED:

SAFETY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM OUTREACH – 2018-2019: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of \$15,000 for energy safety and energy conservation educational programming for elementary school students and senior citizens for the 2018-2019 program year. He stated that the R.F. Gouley Company has managed the training program for several years and that the program is well received by all audiences. After a brief discussion, and on a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to authorize the expenditure per the recommendation of management.

HF VISITOR CENTER TURBINE RUNNER DISPLAY: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission reject all bids for the Hadley Falls Visitor Center Turbine Runner Display as all bids came in over budget. After a brief discussion, and on a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to reject all bids per the recommendation of management.

COMMUNICATIONS:

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would take place on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the Meeting at 6:14 PM.

HG&E Commission

