

MINUTES OF GAS & ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 18, 2017

A meeting of the Holyoke Gas and Electric Department was held on April 18, 2017 at 5:03 P.M. in the Department's offices. In attendance were Commissioners Hoey, Griffin and Sutter; Manager Lavelle; Superintendent Ducheney, Kirk Jonah, Jim Jackowski Terry Sweeney and Brian Richards.

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hoey called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

MINUTES:

On a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes from March 28, 2017.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF MANAGER:

Financial Report:

Mr. Richards reviewed the draft February financial statements and reported that the 2016 audited financial statements have been submitted by the auditor and are currently being reviewed by staff.

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 April natural gas rate comparisons and noted that the Department is very competitive in all classes. He then gave an update on the proposed agreement with Columbia Gas of Massachusetts. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

Power Supply:

Mr. Lavelle reviewed the April electric rate comparisons and noted that the Department remains very competitive in all rate classes. He also reviewed the April mark to market report for power supply and stated that all transactions are within policy limits. He then presented the first quarter 2017 Solar Production Report and stated that first quarter solar production is up over 200% from last year. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

Mr. Lavelle then gave an update on the proposed battery storage project by Engie at the Mt. Tom coal plant site. He also reported that the 175 kw solar array on the roof of Riverside A-B building was on schedule to be completed by the first week of May. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Lavelle reported that design and planning for the Holyoke 17L Substation is progressing. He stated that staff expects the plan to be approved by the ISO-NE Reliability Committee this week and that the current plan is to begin construction in 2018 with project completion scheduled in 2019. He also

reported that planned maintenance activities are progressing on schedule. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC PRODUCTION

Mr. Ducheney reported that hydro production is on generally on plan for the year. He also reported that recent canal drawdown and maintenance activities went well. He reported that the new gantry crane has been installed and commissioning is in progress. He further reported that the Hadley Falls visitor center building construction is nearly complete. Mr. Ducheney also gave an update on preparations for fish migration season and reported that the LIHI re-certification application was submitted on April 7th. 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.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST – HOLYOKE ALLIES BASEBALL CLUB: Mr. Lavelle reported that the Department received a sponsorship request from the Holyoke Allies Baseball Club for \$1,000 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 sponsorship request per the recommendation of management.

BID AUTHORIZATIONS:

RIVERSIDE #4-& #5 INTAKE RACK REPLACEMENT: Mr. Lavelle requested authorization to solicit bids for the replacement of the intake rack at Riverside Station units #4 and #5. He stated that the rack is beyond its useful life and beyond repair. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to authorize the bid per the recommendation of management.

2017 VEHICLE REPLACEMENTS: Mr. Lavelle requested authorization to solicit bids for the purchase of three vehicles to replace 2 existing vehicles in the Department rotation and to satisfy the need for a new vehicle for Electric Distribution. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to authorize the bid per the recommendation of management.

BIDS RECEIVED:

2017 STURGEON POST CONSTRUCTION MONITORING: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$122,000 for engineering and environmental consulting services from Kleinschmidt Associates, to perform required post-construction monitoring and reporting services related to the new Fish Exclusion Rack, and required pursuant to the Project 2004 FERC License Article 410. 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.

COBBLE MT UNIT #2 BYPASS VALVE: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$12,480 for the purchase of a new gate valve and operator to replace an existing 2" bypass valve at the Cobble Mountain Reservoir Facility. He stated that the expenditure was fully reimbursable by the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission. 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.

BOATLOCK STATION EMERGENCY GENERATOR: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$12,500 for the purchase of an emergency generator for Boatlock Station to allow for the draining of the canals in an emergency situation and power failure condition. 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.

CANAL LOG BOOM HARDWARE REPLACEMENT: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$23,410 for the purchase of hardware (wire rope, shackles, anchors, etc.) required to repair the canal log boom. He stated that the existing hardware recently failed under significant ice load. 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.

2017 INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT FOR THE ELEVENTH PART 12: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$56,788 for the purchase of engineering services required to perform the eleventh FERC Part 12 Investigation for the FERC Project 2004 project works as required under the FERC license. 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.

RIVERSIDE FOREBAY EXPANSION: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$8,700 for engineering services required to develop two options for expanding the Riverside Station forebay area and to develop associated construction cost estimates. He stated that the activity is related to recent studies that determined that hydro electrical output could be increased if the forebay area were expanded. 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.

CORERO DDOS MITIGATION SOLUTION: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$99,848 for the purchase of DDOS mitigation hardware and software to protect the HG&E enterprise and commercial networks. He stated that multiple DDOS attacks on HG&E commercial customers have been identified and that the recommended hardware will help minimize the impact of any future attacks. He stated that the recommended solution has been tested over several weeks by staff and has proven to be effective. 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.

LINE RECLOSERS AND CONTROLS: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the contract for Line Reclosers and Controls to Stuart C. Irby, the low bidder meeting all requirements of

the solicitation. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to award the bid per the recommendation of management.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 04/12/17 – Draft Commission Meeting Minutes from 03/28/17
- 04/13/17 – JL/DD/Financial Statements, Balance Sheet February 2017
- 04/14/17 – JL/JJ/Sponsorship Request – Holyoke Allies Baseball Club
- 04/04/17 – PD/SR/Authorization to Bid – Riverside #4/5 Intake Rack Replacement
- 04/11/17 – JL/TS/Authorization to Bid – 2017 Department Vehicle Replacements
- 04/22/17 – PD/RM/2017 Sturgeon Post Construction Monitoring
- 04/03/17 – PD/KT/Purchasing Approval: Cobble MT Unit #2 Bypass Valve & Operator
- 04/11/17 – PD/KT/Purchasing Approval: Boatlock Station Emergency Generator
- 04/11/17 – PD/SR/Purchasing Approval: Canal Log Boom Hardware Replacement
- 04/12/17 – YD/RM/2017 Independent Consultant for the Eleventh Part 12
- 04/12/17 – BB/SL/Purchasing Approval: Construction Cost Estimate for Riverside Forebay Expansion
- 04/12/17 – TH/MS/Purchasing Approval: Corero DDoS Mitigation Solution
- 04/12/17 – BB/JB/Bid Recommendation – Line Reclosers and Controls

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would take place on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Sutter, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the Meeting at 5:54 PM.



HG&E Commission