

# **PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT - BOARD OF UTILITY COMMISSIONERS**

**The regular meeting of the Pascoag Utility District Board of Utility Commissioners was held on Monday, August 27, 2007, in the District office, 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI.**

**Members Present: Chairman Albert Palmisciano, Vice-Chair Ann Polacek, Commissioners Brian Choiniere, William Mageau, Thomas Partridge, Adrien Trudeau, and Dennis Whitman**

**Also in Attendance: Theodore Garille, General Manager; William Bernstein, General Counsel**

**Chairman Palmisciano opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.**

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Good and Welfare of the District**

**A. PUC Data Request- Docket No. 1725**

**Ms. Allaire reviewed the information, noting 33 customers had been shut off for the period ending June 30, 2007. There weren't any broken agreements but 1,144 disconnect notices were sent. Al Palmisciano made a motion to receive and file the information, which was seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

## **B. Lobbyist Report- Joan Milas**

**Ms. Milas has served as lobbyist for Pascoag Utility District since 2003. She collaborates with the Pascoag Utility district to make sure that our best interests are served. She worked with Representative Pacheco on passing the Fire Hydrant Legislation.**

## **C. Presentation to Representative Edwin Pacheco**

**Mr. Garille presented Representative Edwin Pacheco with a special recognition award from NEPPA.**

## **D. Water Legislation H-1098**

**Ms. Allaire reviewed the information she had received when she attended the RI Water Works Association. She stated that as a group we need to be more active at the State house not only because of the effects this legislation will have on the water company but also on the customers. If this piece of legislation passes in the next session it is estimated that in the next 5-7 years water rates would double. The group has proposed a set of goals and one goal is to get backing from each of the Boards on this legislation, to work with their senators and representatives. Ms. Allaire emphasized the importance of starting a grassroots campaign to make the public aware of the consequences of this legislation.**

## **E. Newsletter**

**Ms. Allaire presented the Board with an in-house newsletter. The newsletter would be given out monthly to keep everyone informed**

and up to date with various projects that were happening in different departments.

## **F. Correspondence**

**Mr. Garille received a thank you card from the Pascoag Public Library in regards to a donation that was made by the Pascoag Utility District.**

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

- Finance Subcommittee- June 25, 2007**
- Regular Meeting – June 25, 2007**

**Tom Partridge made a motion to approve all minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Bill Mageau. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

## **4. Committee Comments**

### **A. Water Subcommittee**

**Mr. Garille is looking into putting in a second line to supply the district with water. They are currently investigating the possibility of putting in a second 10 inch line on Lapham Farm Rd. The committee has instructed Mr. Garille to investigate further and obtain cost estimates on this matter.**

## **5. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Update Well #5**

**Mr. Guertin reported that all wire and conduit are in the ground. Additionally all cable, conduit, spare conduit, boxes and the transformer pad are in. Mr. Guertin stated that they had to terminate all of the wires, install the pad mount and finish the construction on the street. He estimated that the project should be completed within the next three weeks barring any unforeseen problems. Mr. Lima informed us that the water lines are in and have been pressure tested. They have been chlorinated twice and both times they have failed testing. They will be trying another test on it this week. The pump should be coming in at the beginning of September.**

#### **B. Update on USDA/STAG Grant**

**Ms. Allaire reported that Pascoag Utility District has been formally approved for an initial \$163,000. This amount was the difference between the USDA grant and the cost for the well. There was a problem with running into ledge that has increased the initial estimate by \$48,000. Ms. Allaire has sent in a second application for the STAG grant which should reimburse the project by at least 55%. The USDA funds have covered 3 disbursements to Dankris builders. The first payment was for \$83,000, the second payment was for \$178,000 and the third payment was \$216,000. There is \$179,000 remaining of the USDA Grant. The District has fronted 37,000 for the final payment. This is part of the money the District is requesting be reimbursed through the STAG grant. Ms. Allaire stated that the District has used funds from the Water Restricted Fund account for Well Exploration. The District will reimburse that fund when they are reimbursed by the**

**STAG grant. Ms. Allaire estimates that the District will probably need another \$110,000 to bring the well fully online.**

### **C. Special Project 2006A**

**Mr. Garille informed us that Special Project 2006A will soon have a name. There will be a meeting on the project held tomorrow. AT the EFSD hearing there were two interveners at the hearing: Baystate Gas company and an electric company in Western Massachusetts. These companies have only intervened to set a place for themselves at the table and are not either for or against the project. The public did not object to the plant. The plant will be located on the existing site of the Stony Brook Generating Plant. One of the issues that was addressed in the meeting was the subject of water and how scarce it is. To combat this problem they have decided to go with dry condensing units. Mr. Garille informed the committee that everything appears to be on budget at this time.**

## **6. New Business**

### **• New National Grid High Voltage Lines**

**Dave Berron and Ron Garoulia discussed their proposed plans to build a new 345,000 volt transmission line which will traverse the town of Burillville into our service territory on the existing right away. Mr. Berron addressed a regional transmission planning study that was conducted by the Independent System Operator of New England. The study found that there are five significant problems with the bulk**

transmission system at this time. Currently the ties are north/south ties and this makes it difficult for the system to power efficiently from east/west. They found significant reliability problems in the Springfield, Massachusetts and Rhode Island area. There has also been an issue with equipment overloads, voltage violations, low voltage or the inability for the system to support voltages. They have also found that the three states (MA, CT and RI) cannot share power efficiently because of constraints in the system. In Connecticut there are also problems with east/west constraints. There will be four proposed projects to come out of this study. The projects will take place in RI, MA and CT as well as an interstate project.

## **7. Financial Reports**

### **• Electric Department – May/June 2007**

\_\_\_\_\_ made a motion to receive and file, which was seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. The vote in favor was unanimous.

### **• Water Department – May/June 2007**

\_\_\_\_\_ made a motion to receive and file, which was seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. The vote in favor was unanimous.

## **8. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **9. Adjournment**

\_\_\_\_\_ made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. The vote in favor was unanimous. Chairman Palmisciano adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.