

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

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Pascoag Utility District Board of Utility Commissioners will be held on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 6:00 pm in the District office, Pascoag 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI.**

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

**Members Absent:**

**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. Public Comment**

**There was no public comment.**

**3. Committee Comments**

**• By-Law Subcommittee- Mr. Palmisciano wanted the Commissioner's to review the minutes from last month's By-Law Subcommittee and**

let him know if they have any recommendations for Bylaw changes.

- **Benefits Subcommittee**

The Benefits Subcommittee is recommending the new Healthmate-health insurance plan for Pascoag Utility District. It will save the district an estimated \$24,000. There are also many benefits to the employees.

#### **4. Good and Welfare of the District**

##### **A. PUC Data Request – Docket No. 1725**

Ms. Allaire reviewed the customer shut off information. PUD is still in the moratorium so the number of disconnects are relatively low, only two customers. The average customer balance is over \$500.00. During the month of December there had been 15 broken agreements.

Pascoag Utility District sent out 119 disconnection notices. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Partridge, seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous.

##### **B. Thank You**

The District received two thank you notes-one from the St. Vincent de Paul society thanking Harle Round and Linda LaPorte for helping people in the community that are dealing with hardships. There was also a thank you note from NEPPA thanking Linda LaPorte for her hospitality and making the Customer Service class feel welcomed. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Partridge, seconded by Mr. Whitman. Mr. Mageau was absent for vote and Mr. Choiniere abstained. Ms. Polacek and Choiniere arrived at 6:10 pm and 6:15 pm.

### **C. Water Tax/Restricted Fund**

**Ms. Allaire presented information on the water taxes and restricted fund. Typically every quarter Pascoag Utility District deposits \$12,000 in the PUD restricted fund. Ms. Allaire wanted the Board to be aware that this quarter PUD did not put the \$12,000 into the restricted fund during the past quarter. The reason that it was not put into the fund was because Pascoag Utility District had a tax liability due to the State of \$11, 900. Instead of putting that money in the restricted fund it was used to pay the liability due to the State.**

**Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was six approved it and Mr. Mageau was absent from vote.**

### **D. Electric Sales Tax**

**Ms. Allaire presented information on the electric sales tax. On the electric side PUD had a liability to the state of \$230.00 which amounted to three customers that were affected. Ms. Cournoyer worked with the State auditor closely over 4 weeks and dedicated a lot of time and effort into the audit. Mr. Palmisciano wanted to extend a job well done to Christine Cournoyer.**

### **E. Holiday Lighting-email correspondence**

**Ms. Allaire presented information on the Holiday Lighting. PUD always tracks the Kwh's for holiday lighting each year. Harrisville's new LED lights' total consumption for the holiday season was 68 Kwh's. Last year with the old bulbs they used over 2200 Kwh's. The savings were huge! Pascoag's LED lights consumed 40 Kwh's. Ms.**

**Allaire did not have Pascoag's last year consumption to compare it to. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Choiniere, seconded by Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

#### **F. Firm Hydro Energy for February 2009**

**Mr. Garille presented information on Firm Hydro Energy. There will be no reduction in firm hydro sales for the month of February. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Partridge, seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

#### **G. Customer Visitations**

**Ms. Allaire presented information on the summary of the total number of customers at the end of January. PUD visited 47 customers representing over \$19,000 of overdue balance with a total balance of \$28,990. Mr. Partridge asked how PUD was being received when they visit customers. Ms. Allaire stated that they obviously aren't happy to see us but they are directed to call the office so that staff can direct them to the agencies. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Trudeau, seconded by Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

#### **H. New Employee**

**Mr. Guertin introduced Mr. Douglas Menard. He was hired as a meter reader for the District.**

#### **I. Groton Visit**

**Ms. Allaire wanted to update the Board on a visit to Groton. They have an Advanced Meter Infrastructure system. This system can detect tampering and is read automatically minute to minute. Groton**

is very similar to Pascoag in the amount of customers that they have and the type of terrain. The cost of the system to Groton was over \$400,000. They read their system all in one day and bill out at the first of every month. This also allowed them to prepare for the ice storm because they were notified immediately of where the problems were located and this allowed them to be the first ones who called for mutual aid assistance.

#### **J. Open Meetings Conference**

Ms. Allaire spoke about the Open Meetings Conference that she and Ms. Downs attended. There are a few questions that PUD has that the staff is going to talk with him about. There will be another meeting in August on the Open Meetings Laws.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

- Regular BUC Meeting- November 24, 2008
- Annual Meeting- December 8, 2008
- Re-org Meeting- December 15, 2008
- By-Laws Subcommittee Meeting-December 22, 2008
- Regular BUC Meeting- December 22, 2008

Mr. Whitman made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### **6. Unfinished Business**

##### **08-28 NYPA Reserve Margin Gross Up**

Mr. Garille spent 3 days in Washington DC last week due to the NYPA Reserve Margin Gross Up issue. If this passes it will mean \$125,000

more a year to the rate payers of Pascoag. Pascoag Utility District is filing a complaint. PUD gets power from NYPA. PUD not only buys power but capacity. Mr. Garille met with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Senator Jack Reed's staff.

Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Partridge and Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous

## **7. New Business**

### **09-01 Trip to Washington DC**

Same information as listed above.

### **09-02 NYPA Reverse Flow Issue**

The transmission bills for NYPA had increased over 300% and PUD filed an intervention. The bills then went back down to 2%. Up until now no one has been able to get a meeting with NYPA to talk about this issue. Mr. Garille will be attending the meeting in February to talk about refunds. He will keep the Commissioners posted on new developments.

### **09-03 Action Item: Stony Brook Plant**

Mr. Garille presented information on the Stony Brook Plant. Mr. Garille stated that he promised the Board that he would look into the situation over at Stony Brook 3 because they were at the point in time where they could exercise the off ramp. Mr. Garille had new information for the Board, they do not have to make the decision to leave or stay as a participant right now. The PSA's (which is the final document that PUD has to sign in order to be a participant in the plant) will not be ready until June. The Board had approved an \$80,000 budget for this; PUD has spent an estimated \$70,000 so there

is \$10,000 that has been budgeted for use through June. To the best of Mr. Garille's knowledge there will not be a need to spend any more than the \$10,000, maybe not even anymore than has already been spent.

The other new development is that the Connecticut Municipal group has joined as a co-owner of the plant. They have infused \$820,000 as an initial payment. The plant is now fully subscribed and no one has dropped out. The good news is they're projecting a 10% decrease in the cost of the plant due to cancellations. There's been a reduction in the lead time on the plant. They are currently looking at 2013. Mr. Palmisciano reminded Mr. Garille that the Board had voted not to exceed \$80,000 for this project. Mr. Garille stated that it should not go over budget and that the Board's directive would be met.

## **8. Financial Reports**

### **o Electric Department- November 2008**

Motion to receive and file the Electric Department Financial Reports was made by Mr. Mageau, seconded by Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.

### **o Water Department-November 2008**

Motion to receive and file the Water Department Financial Reports made by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Trudeau The vote in favor was unanimous.

## **9. Executive Session**

To go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing job performance pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1). The minutes of said

meeting shall remain confidential for as long as necessary pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, until a majority of the Board shall vote to open said minutes as provided for an subject to the open meeting law.

Mr. Partridge made a motion to go into Executive session, which was seconded by Mr. Mageau. The vote in favor was unanimous. The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 7:01 pm.

Mr. Partridge made a motion to adjourn Executive session, which was seconded by Mr. Mageau. The vote in favor was unanimous. Executive session adjourned at 7:40 pm.

#### **10. 09-03 Action Item: Employee Contract**

Mr. Whitman made a motion to approve the contract as submitted, seconded by Mr. Partridge, Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Mageau. The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Mr. Partridge made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous. Chairman Palmisciano adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

All meetings of the Pascoag Utility District are subject to the open meetings laws, which include requirements for access by the physically challenged. Anyone wishing to attend these meetings, who may have special needs for access or services such as a sign language interpreter, must contact the District at 568-6222 seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

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**Brian Choiniere, Secretary**  
**Board of Utility Commissioners**

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**Desarae Downs, Recording Secretary**