

**PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF UTILITY COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting – March 23, 2009**

**The regular meeting of the Pascoag Utility District Board of Utility Commissioners will be held on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 6:00 pm in the District office, 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI.**

**Members Present: Chairman Albert Palmisciano, Vice-Chair Ann Polacek (arrived at 6:20 pm), Commissioners Thomas Partridge, Dennis Whitman, and Adrien Trudeau**

**Members Absent: William Mageau-excused due to sick leave, Brian Choiniere**

**Agenda**

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Public Comment**

**There was no public comment at this time.**

**3. Committee Comments**

**There was no Committee Comments at this time.**

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

**A. Docket No. 1725**

**Ms. Allaire reviewed the customer shut off information. Ms Allaire stated that no one was disconnected in the month of February due to the cold temperatures. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Partridge. The vote in favor was**

**unanimous.**

## **B. Thank You Notes**

**There was a thank you note for PUD's donation to the new lacrosse team. There was also a thank you note from children from a school in Holden, MA for helping them restore their power. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Partridge, seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

## **C. Low Income Affordability Act**

**Mr. Palmisciano said that it seemed that everyone that attended the meeting was against the Low Income Affordability Act. There were over 40 customers that had attended the meeting. Mr. Palmisciano stated that the Pascoag Utility District would seek an exemption to this Act. Pascoag Utility District's lobbyist would keep a close eye on the Act. A majority of the people that attended the meeting were concerned that the \$1.50 charge would be increased in years to come.**

## **D. Waiver for Credit Card Fees**

**Ms. Allaire spoke about how PUD has to charge a credit fee of \$3.25 due to a ruling by the PUC. As part of the upgrade to the website, she has been checking out rates from other credit card companies. She found a credit card company that if we do not charge a fee, it would reduce our cost of the fee by 60%. PUD has requested that the PUC waive the credit card fee that PUD was mandated to charge.**

## **E. USDA Compliance Review**

**Ms. Allaire stated that USDA usually visits the office every 2-3 years and reviews the office' records. When they visited this year everything seemed to be in compliance and she is not expecting to**

**hear back anything**

#### **F. Accessibility Report for Open Meetings**

**PUD had a surprise audit from the American with Disabilities division. PUD needed to install a scald guard in the bathroom. PUD also needed to purchase a listening device and trim the side walk up. These changes will all be done by the end of the month.**

#### **G. Public Hearing for Amended Rules and Regulations pertaining to Public Drinking Water**

**On March 26th, the RI Department of Health is holding a hearing and Ms. Allaire and Mr. Lima will be attending to go over changes to rules and regulations.**

#### **H. AMI's**

**Ms. Allaire spoke about the AMI's and that the initial estimate to install AMI's was \$450,000. The newest estimate has come in at \$900,000. PUD staff is still looking into different options with the AMI's and is trying to get an AMI expert to do a presentation on the technology in the near future. Mr. Garille stated that because of the rural area that Burrillville is located in, it makes it difficult to set up AMI's because of the terrain. Mr. Guertin and Mr. Blodgett are attending a Smart Grid seminar this week. PUD staff members are trying to get the most information on this as possible.**

#### **I. Earth Week Workshops in April**

**Ms. Downs presented information on the workshops that will be held in April. PUD will host a solar/wind, green building and water conservation workshops in April. There will also be a rain water barrel purchasing program where customers can preorder the rain**

**water barrels online and then pick them up at the District Office.**

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

- By-Law Subcommittee- February 23, 2009**
- Regular BUC Meeting- February 23, 2009**

**Mr. Whitman made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

## **6. Unfinished Business**

### **08-22 Office Solar Project**

**The 5KW Office Solar Project will be beginning shortly. There will be additional features available to customers such as being able to see the real time energy production on a screen in the front office as well as on the website. Ms. Downs is still exploring grant opportunities to hopefully be able to cover another installation of a 5KW system. If PUD is able to find a grant to cover the additional 5KW, 25% of the District's office power will come from solar.**

## **7. New Business**

- Trip to New York**

**Mr. Garille recently went to New York to protest NYPA trying to raise PUD's rates by 12.1% which would add up to an increase of a little less than \$20,000 per year.**

## **8. Financial Reports**

**A. Electric Department- January 2009**

**PUD has not received its' year end audited financial reports. Ms. Allaire has spoken with the auditors and they are anticipating that the audited financial statements should be available by April.**

**B. Water Department-January 2009**

**Motion to receive and file the Electric and Water Financial reports was made by Mr. Partridge, seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

**9. Adjournment**

**Mr. Trudeau made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Partridge. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

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**Brian Choiniere, Secretary**

**Board of Utility Commissioners**

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**Desarae Downs, Recording Secretary**

**The public is welcome to any meeting of the Board of Utilities council or its committees. If communication assistance (readers/ interpreters/captioners) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact the District Office at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.**