

# CITY OF GROTON UTILITIES COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Meeting

July 25, 2012

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Galbraith called the meeting to order at 11:29 a.m.

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** Chairperson Mayor Marian K. Galbraith

Commissioners: Edward E. DeMuzzio, Paul A. Duarte, Shirleyann Dunbar-Rose  
Bruce J. Fafard

**Excused:**

**Staff present:** Director of Utilities Paul Yatcko  
General Manager-Information Technology Susan G. Blanchette  
General Manager-Utility Finance David F. Collard  
General Manager-Electric Herbert D. Cummings  
General Manager-Customer Service Tina M. Daniels  
Manager-Water Richard M. Stevens  
City of Groton Finance Director Hillsberg  
Executive Assistant Deborah J. Gaudette

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Dunbar-Rose / Duarte** that the minutes of the regular meeting of June 27, 2012 be approved. **So voted unanimously.**

## 3. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER'S REPORT

**Fafard / Duarte** that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. **So voted unanimously.**

## 4. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter dated June 26, 2012 from Mr. Tony Sheridan, President/CEO of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, thanking Groton Utilities for the sponsorship of the Business Breakfast with U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney.
- E-mail dated July 16, 2012 from Mr. Ken Horne, CMEEC ConnSMART Program Director, regarding the recent State of Connecticut, Department of Energy site visit.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

There were no public comments.

## 6. CMEEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Commissioner DeMuzzio will provide a CMEEC Board of Directors report at the August Utilities Commission meeting.

## **7. REGIONAL WATER UPDATE**

Mayor Galbraith will provide an update on Regional Water at the August Utilities Commission meeting.

## **8. MONTHLY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

General Manager Collard presenting the following financial highlights:

### *Electric:*

- A deficit of \$39,000 was deducted from the TCA, leaving a year-end balance of \$751,000. A \$17,823 surplus was added to the PPA fund, leaving a year-end balance of \$554,000.
- The application Line Maintenance Reserves in the amount of \$72,000 was not posted before the issuance of the financial report; therefore the net income for fiscal year 2011-2012 is \$6,546,000.
- Effective May 1, purchased power cost was restored to \$96.28/mWh. The adjustments made to the purchased power cost for the previous three (3) months yielded a benefit of \$1,353,000.
- For the fiscal year-to-date, net income is almost 27% more than budget largely due to the temporary reduction in power costs. Taking into consideration the application of Line Maintenance Reserves, fiscal year-to-date net income is 28% more than budget.

### *Water:*

- Water Revenues are 1.9% below budget for the month, which were offset by Sales for Resale that is more than 53% above budget.
- Net Earnings for the month are affected by the settlement of a claim by a commercial customer for overbilling during a period from January 2003 – November 2010, which accounts for 50% of the negative net earning variance for the month.
- For the fiscal year-to-date, Net Earnings are more than 56% higher than budget primarily due to lower than budget O&M Expenses that more than offset lower revenues.

## **9. PROJECTS / INITIATIVES UPDATE**

General Managers Cummings and Blanchette gave an update on the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) SMART Grid Project. The Commission discussed the e-mail from Mr. Ken Horne, CMEEC ConnSMART Program Director, regarding the recent site visit. Key individuals were commended for a fantastic job and the State intends to use the CMEEC model as a marker for assessments and grading for other sites.

Manager Stevens offered tours of ongoing Water Division projects. Mayor Galbraith suggested the August Utilities Commission meeting be held at the Operations Complex for a tour of the new laboratory and ongoing water projects.

Commissioner Dunbar-Rose inquired about the status of the Walker Hill Water Tank. Manager Stevens reported the site in on the top of the distribution planning / replacement list.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

**Agenda Item 10A, GUC-12-06-15:** Consideration of and Action to authorize Management to utilize the services of Fay, Spofford, and Thorndike to perform the final design of Water Treatment Plant Rebuild project, and furthermore, that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur

**Dunbar-Rose / Duarte** that the City of Groton Utilities Commission authorize Management to utilize the services of Fay, Spofford, and Thorndike to perform the final design of Water Treatment Plant

Rebuild project, and furthermore, that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur. **So voted unanimously.**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

At 11:48 a.m., **DeMuzzio / Fafard** that this meeting go into Executive Session and that all Commissioners and General Manager Collard be included. **So voted unanimously.**

At 12:12 p.m., **Fafard / DeMuzzio** that this meeting return to Open Session. **So voted unanimously.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, at 12:13 p.m., **Dunbar-Rose / Fafard** that this meeting adjourn. **So voted unanimously.**

Attest:

Paul A. Duarte  
Clerk