

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
January 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Claira Monier, Chair
Thomas Moses
Ken Mailloux
Deborah de Moulpied
James Garrity
Tom Cunningham

Present for the OCA:

Susan Chamberlin
Christina Piccione Martin
Dr. Pradip Chattopadhyay
Jim Brennan
Jamie Breen

Guests: Andrew Biemer, Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell, P.C

Ms. Monier called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. **Minutes of January, 2015 Meeting**

Ms. Monier asked the Board if there were any edits to the minutes. None were stated. Mr. Mailloux motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Garrity seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. **Case Update**

Ms. Chamberlin briefed the Board on the status of several active dockets, including:

- DE 11-216 PSNH Alternative Default Energy Service Rate
- DE 11-250 PSNH Investigation into Scrubber Costs
- DE 12-295 Petition to Investigate PSNH Services and Charges to Competitive Suppliers
- DE 14-120 PSNH Annual Reconciliation
- DE 14-216 CORE 2015-2016
- DG 14-180 Liberty Utilities Rate Case
- IR 14-338 Review of DS Procurement Processes for Electric Distribution Utilities

Mr. Garrity asked if the Scrubber case (DE 11-250) has come to a conclusion. Ms. Chamberlin explained the hearings had concluded and days before an order was believed to be issued PSNH asked for a stay based on the fact that Representative Jeb Bradley and the Governor's office would lead settlement discussions. The Commission granted the stay in DE 11-250.

3. **Any other topics or issues that the Board or OCA wishes to discuss**

Ms. Chamberlin introduced and welcomed to the board our two most recent employees. Dr. Pradip Chattopadhyay is the Rate and Market Policy Director for the OCA and Jamie Breen is the Clerk IV for the OCA. Ms. Chamberlin explained that she will be making her decision to fill the Attorney III position next week.

Dr. Chattopadhyay then briefed the board on his past experience and expertise, as well as the cases he is currently working on. Mr. Brennan informed the board about our recent budget request that was sent to the Governor. He explained that the OCA did receive approval for a position in 2016 for an Outreach Director, but it was not approved for 2015. He detailed that the budget is mostly made up of fixed costs that we cannot control,

however we did increase our consultant and training budgets. We are still in the budget process, so it is unknown what the final budget will be at this point. However, Ms. Chamberlin pointed out that we are not part of the general fund and explained how the assessment on utilities works. Mr. Garrity suggested that the OCA investigate who the finance budget liaison would be for us. He encouraged us to reach out and explain our budget in detail and proactively seek any questions they may have. Ms. Piccione Martin briefed the board on the grant that the Electric Assistance Program awarded to Project Care and Neighbor Helping Neighbor to assist customers during the electric price spike this winter. She explained that the EAP Advisory Board provided a recommendation to the Commission for their approval. Liberty Utilities, who is also on that board, took a different position petitioning that the money collected in their territory for the grant, should only be used for their customers. The OCA and the rest of the EAP Advisory Board objected at the hearing, as this is a fundamental difference to how the statewide program currently runs. Ultimately, the Commission approved the recommendations as the EAP Advisory Board filed them.

Legislative Update - Ms. Chamberlin updated the board on the below bills currently at the Legislature.

- HB 191
- HB 208
- SB 60
- 2015-H-0674-R

Ms. Piccione Martin explained that the legislative update is a version that the BIA handed out, but we will have the OCA's version for the next meeting.

Ms. Monier informed the board that Mr. Costello has retired. She suggested that the board take a vote to choose a new Vice Chair. She asked Mr. Moses if he would be willing to serve as Vice Chair. He indicated he would. The board voted unanimously to accept Mr. Moses as the Vice Chair. Ms. Piccione Martin informed the board that we should vote again for the Chair position as well, as that should be done annually. The board voted unanimously to accept Ms. Monier to continue as Chair.

Ms. Monier also informed the board that Ms. Manzelli has scheduled a meeting of the Performance Evaluation Subcommittee for February 12, at 1:30pm to 3:30pm to be held at the PUC's offices. Ms. Monier asked Ms. de Moulpied if she will continue on the committee until a new member can be found. Ms. de Moulpied responded that she would.

4. **Opportunity for public input**

Ms. Monier made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.