

Minutes:

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting

June 28, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at Town of Stowe Electric Conference Room

Present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Richard ("Dick") Marron, Chairman; Larry Lackey, Vice-Chairman; Denise Gutstein, Commissioner

STAFF: Ellen Burt, General Manager; Kevin Weishaar, Controller; Matthew Rutherford, Manager of Regulatory Compliance; David Kresock, Director of Operations; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

Dick called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Approval of the May 17th, 2017 Meeting Minutes

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of May 17, 2017 were approved.

IT Report

The IT Report was part of the Commissioners' Meeting Packet but was not discussed in further detail.

Regulatory Update

500 kW Solar Net Metering Project - Cady Hill: The Public Service Board (PSB) officially denied the Applicant's motion for reconsideration and appeal of its decision, stating the application was substantially out of compliance with the existing PSB rules. The Applicant indicated that they would move forward again with their appeal to the Supreme Court of Vermont (SCOV). The PSB furthermore granted SED's motion to stay the dispute resolution proceeding regarding the cost of the engineering study. The Applicant supported SED's motion. The issue may be revisited, dependent on the outcome of the appeal to the SCOV. The neighbors planned to participate in the SCOV docket, however the Town of Stowe and SED will hold back on this docket as the Public Service Department (PSD) is tasked with trying to defend Court decisions.

Interval and Billing Data Transfer - PSB Docket 8316: Matt presented the SEDC quote for the functionality to provide the interval and billing data requested of SED. VEIC is collecting similar information from the other utilities. The current language of the proposed resolution states that the distribution utilities should be reimbursed of their "future costs incurred to alter or reprogram" their systems. The maintenance cost reimbursement is still uncertain.

The question if these yearly maintenance costs could be claimed toward Tier III requirements (usage reduction target) was discussed in detail, as the information gained from collection this data could be used to reduce usage.

Docket 7307 – Cyber Security Plan: The Public Service Department (PSD) met with SED and the other Distribution Utilities (DU). The PSD was looking for input from the DU, and the DUs emphasized that having an actual cyber security plan does not make sense from a technological perspective, because essentially each utility has its series of programs and products that are in place to defend against any sort of cyber intrusion for what their individual systems consist of. An emergency response plan does not transfer or apply to all utilities. The DUs have recommended that VELCO and all utilities should follow a statement of principles in order to avoid a cyber security intrusion. This statement of cyber security standards (Standards) could then be filed with the PSD and once a consensus of all parties is reached, will also be filed with the PSB. The two main points that the PSD emphasized was that these Standards will establish that utilities should have cyber security protocols and programs appropriate for their individual systems and that the PSD may periodically conduct visual, in-person audits of said measures. The Standards will also establish methods of communication between the utilities and statewide bodies to ensure information sharing on a regular basis. They also will include protocols to follow in case of a serious event to ensure that all parties are notified in a timely and can respond accordingly by shoring up their own systems and also that state officials can properly respond to requests for comments.

2017 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”): ENE and SED continue to make steady progress on the forecasting, supply, and transmission and distribution (T&D) sections of the IRP. SED will be reaching out to the PSD to provide them an opportunity to review and discuss a draft before SED files the IRP with the PSB by August 1st.

Act 56 –Tier 3 requirements: Matt handed out a high-level explanation about the Tier 3 requirements, with its purpose, technologies, statutory targets and alternative compliance payment value, examples of potential suite of programs and program collaboration. The need for an innovative and proactive approach to the 2019 deadline was discussed in detail.

Financial Update – Financial Review through April 2017

The current bottom line is a favorable \$112,000, which is above budget. Revenues are below budget, mostly due to snowmaking. Power costs are down, mostly due to the still favorable market rate. Transmission costs are up, but are expected to level off.

Operations Report

The Operations Report was part of the Commissioners’ Meeting Packet but was not discussed in further detail, beyond compliance with safety codes. Ellen informed the Commissioners that David would show and explain SED’s UG mapping at the July Meeting.

Billing Program Conversion

The new billing program system and bill format were discussed briefly.

Other Business

Moscow Mills Property

Ellen will share the first building design from BreadLoaf at next month's Commissioners meeting.

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for Wednesday, July 19th at 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lily Burgess
Clerk of the Board