



Board of Commissioners

32 South Main Street
Middleborough, MA 02346

Middleboro Gas and Electric Commission Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2011

1. Call to Order

Mr. Don Triner called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at the MGED's administration office at 32 South Main Street in Middleborough, MA. The Commission meeting is being videotaped by Middleboro Community Cable Access Media (MCCAM) and being televised on Comcast and Verizon and being shown in Lakeville on Verizon. Commission members present included: Mr. Terrence Murphy, Mr. Thomas Murphy, Mr. Joseph Ranahan, Mr. Mike Solimini, and as well as Mr. John Granahan, General Manager.

2. Approval of Minutes

Comm. Thomas Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011 meeting subject to any changes by other Commissioners. Comm. Terrence Murphy seconded the motion. Comm. Solimini requested to add to the November 8, 2011 minutes that he said John Granahan, General Manager, and Chris Pollart, Esq, Rubin & Rudman, are not part of the public body. Comm. Thomas Murphy moved to amend the motion. Comm. Terrence Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0:0. Move to approve the November 8, 2011 minutes with the change as requested by Comm. Solimini. Motion carried 4:0:0. The minutes of November 8, 2011 were approved as corrected.

3. Recognition of Visitors

Visitors present and recognized included: Sandy Richter, Public Communications Manager, Bill Taylor, Electric Division Manager, Bernie Gosson, Gas Division Manager, Jackie Crowley Manager Power Supply, Luis Chukiu, Accounting Manager, Doug Soule, Electric Division Line Crew Member, Selectman Allin Frawley, Alice Elwell, Enterprise Correspondent, Mark Burridge, Middleboro Gazette Correspondent, Suzanne Dube, Finance Committee and liaison for MG&E, and Jose Invencio, videotaping for Middleboro Community Cable Access Media. Residents included: Richard Young and John Pucillo-Dunphy.

4. Correspondence

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

6. New Business

a. Fuel Adjustment Clause Reductions

Mr. Granahan recommended a Purchase Gas Adjustment (PGA) and a Purchase Power Adjustment (PPA) reduction effective January 1, 2012 based on future wholesale prices and Budget figures. The PGA reduction of 4 cents per ccf will save the average winter heating gas customer \$5 a month. The PPA reduction of .12 cents per kwh will save the average monthly electric customer 90 cents a month. With these reductions, the gas & electric customers will be saving approximately ½ million dollars yearly.

b. 2012 Budget

In response to Comm. Solimini's requests for further financial information the following graphs and charts were shown:

- (1) MGED Revenue, Expenses & Net Income graph shown for the years 2003-2012
- (2) MGED Operating Revenue for the years 2003-2012
- (3) MGED Electric KWH sales for the years 2003-2012
- (4) MGED Natural Gas MCF Sales graph for the years 2003-2012
- (5) MGED Operating Expenses showing the bulk of the costs for energy supply for the years 2003-2012
- (6) NYMEX Expirations 2008-2011 showing trading for natural gas contracts which affect gas prices
- (7) NYMEX Expirations 2003-2011,
- (8) NYMEX settles 2012-2017 showing steadier progression of costs
- (9) MGED G& A Expenses graph for 2003-2012 including Pension and GASB45 costs
- (10) MGED O&M Expenses for the Electric and Gas Divisions 2003-2012
- (11) A chart was shown for projecting Gas and Electric Sales Volumes including adjustments in the PPA and PGA since 2006

The following charts included in the Budget were shown:

- (1) Combined Electric, Gas, and Office Operating and Capital Budget information 2010 vs 2011 showing a \$2 million reduction
- (2) The Budget 2012 cash flow and projected balances chart
- (3) The Budgeted Statement of Operations Electric Division chart including the RSA figures
- (4) Budgeted Statement of Operations for the Gas Division including RSA figures

Discussions continued on the 2012 budget including power supply costs; gas, electric, and general administration expenses; capital additions budget for each division; energy audit program; potential for an appliance rebate program; the administrative office paint and repair cost, and the billing system upgrade.

Mr. Granahan thanked Jackie Crowley, Bernie Gosson, Bill Taylor, Luis Chukiu and Sandy Richter for their hard work on the budget.

Comm. Terrence Murphy made a motion to accept the 2012 Budget as submitted. Comm. Thomas Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0:0.

Further discussion continued with Ms. Dube who had additional questions about the budget.

Speakers included: Jackie Crowley, Bill Taylor, Bernie Gosson, Sandy Richter, Luis Chukiu, and Suzanne Dube.

7. Commissioners' Topics:

a. Open Meeting Law:

- (1) Vote to Release the First Section of September 13, 2011 Executive Minutes to Open Minutes

Comm. Terrence Murphy motioned to amend the Gas & Electric Commission meeting minutes previously adopted dated September 13, 2011. Comm. Thomas Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0:1. Comm. Solimini abstained.

Comm. Terrence Murphy motioned to move the Tispaquin Family Campground language in Executive Session on September 13, 2011 to open session minutes. Comm. Thomas Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0:1. Comm. Solimini abstained.

It should be noted that this unintentional discussion on September 13, 2011 continued into executive session creating the need for this amendment.

(2) Rubin and Rudman Response Exhibit

Comm. Solimini read his response to approving the November 4, 2011 letter from Rubin and Rudman. He clarified his reasons for not wanting to accept the letter from Rubin and Rudman and asked the Commission to vote on sending the minutes of the Commission deliberation on November 8, 2011 to the Attorney General as proof and the actual response to the Open Meeting Law complaint. His response was submitted as a public document.

In response to the audience discussion, Mr. Granahan responded that the Attorney General discussed with Rubin and Rudman that the situation was not uncommon and that the easiest thing to do was to have the Board vote to adopt the Rubin and Rudman's letter of November 4, 2011 as it's own and thereby reaffirming the letter that was sent to the Attorney General. Comm. Solimini renewed his objection that Rubin and Rudman sent the letter on behalf of the Commission.

(3) Vote to Reaffirm and Adopt Rubin and Rudman's Response

Comm. Thomas Murphy made a motion to ratify and adopt Rubin and Rudman's response to the Attorney General dated November 4, 2011. Comm. Ranahan asked for further clarification. Comm. Terrence Murphy seconded. Motion carried: 2:1:1. Comm. Ranahan opposed, Comm. Solimini abstained.

Speakers: Mr. Young

b. Communications – Policy Number 2

Comm. Solimini wanted to discuss improving the Communications Policy.

He discussed some of his following recommended additions:

- (1) Promote better communications with all Town departments.
- (2) Written communications should be received and stamped by the MGED's office and forwarded to the Chairman.
- (3) Out of office email communications should note who would be the next employee to contact.
- (4) A chain of command should be established.
- (5) Verbal communications to the Commission Chair - reasonable efforts need to be made to communicate verbal comments to the Commission. A good practice would be to request in writing. (As corrected.)
- (6) Communicate further goals and objectives for forward activity for a week, a month, or longer term plans.

Comm. Thomas Murphy talked about Comm. Solimini responding to the local newspaper when a situation arose at the Electric Station. He felt that it should have been handled by the Communications Manager.

c. Possible Board Meeting with Middleboro Board of Selectmen

Chairman Triner and Selectman Allin Frawley discussed the letter that was sent from the Board of Selectmen to meet with the Board of Commissioners for an update on topics from the MGED.

8. Other

a. Carryover & IRS Use of Auto

Mr. Granahan provided his vacation carryover time and the IRS documentation for use of the Department auto which is approved by the Commission. Comm. Solimini questioned Mr. Granahan's accuracy of the vacation carryover and asked for further clarification on the IRS benefit for the use of his auto. (As corrected.)

9. Unanticipated Topics

a. Mr. Granahan's Contract

Ms. Dube asked for clarification on John Granahan's contract renewal date.

10. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Comm. Thomas Murphy made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Comm. Joe Ranahan seconded the motion. Moved on a polled vote of, Comm. Terrene Murphy, Comm. Thomas Murphy, Comm Ranahan, and Comm. Solimini.

VOTE: Ayes in favor, none opposed.

Chairman Don Triner closed the meeting at 9:35 PM.
Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7:30PM.

The Gas & Electric Commission Meeting of December 13, 2011, was recorded by the secretary.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeannette Mello
Senior Clerk/Secretary
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners