

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEETING

April 9, 2020

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission meeting was held by remote access due to Covid-19 concerns.¹ The meeting began at 1:32 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2020. Chairwoman Dianne Martin, Commissioner Kathryn Bailey, and Commissioner Michael Giaimo were present.

Chairwoman Martin found that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Commission is authorized to meet electronically. She further stated that there is no physical location to observe and listen to this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, she confirmed that the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) is utilizing Webex for the electronic meeting and all members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during the meeting using this platform. The public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, to participate. The PUC has previously given notice to the public of the necessary information for access in an Order of Notice, and if a problem arose during the meeting, they should call the main line at 271-2431. Furthermore, in the event the public is unable to access the meeting, it would then be adjourned.

Chairwoman Martin then proceeded by stating she was at her residence in Deerfield, NH and she was alone. She then asked the Commissioners to state their full name and their location and whether someone was in their presence during this meeting. Commissioner Kathryn Bailey stated she was at the office of the Public Utilities Commission and she was alone. Commissioner Michael Giaimo then stated he was located at his wife's residency and he too was alone.

The following matters were then discussed.

1. Approval of the March 11, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Bailey made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Giaimo seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote. Commissioner Bailey voted yes. Commissioner Giaimo voted yes. Chairwoman Martin voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

¹ See RSA 91-A, Executive Order 2020-04 paragraphs 8 and 18, Emergency Order #12 *Temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A*, and Emergency Order #16 *Temporary prohibition on scheduled gatherings of 10 or more attendees*. See <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/emergency-orders/>

2. Rulemaking, Puc 1200, Uniform Administration of Utility Customer Relations – Commission to Adopt Final Rule for Readoption with Amendments of the Puc 1200 Rules

Chairwoman Martin asked Attorney Mary Schwarzer to briefly describe the status of the Puc Chapter 1200 Rules Amendment process. Attorney Schwarzer explained that on March 17, 2020, the Office of Legislative Services accepted the Commission’s Conditional Approval Response and confirmed that the Commission could proceed to adopt the final version of the rules. Attorney Schwarzer also explained that the document before the Commission “Adopted Rules dated April 9, 2020”, is the proposed final version of the rule, and includes all of the non-substantive changes the Commission was asked to provide. Attorney Schwarzer stated that Staff preferred an implementation date of June 9, 2020, in order to give the utilities the full sixty-day period allowed so they have adequate time to update their billing system to calculate deposits in a different way.

Commissioner Giaimo made a motion to Adopt the Final Rule for Readoption with Amendments of the Puc Chapter 1200 Rules with an effective date of June 9, 2020. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote. Commissioner Bailey voted yes. Commissioner Giaimo voted yes. Chairwoman Martin voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business

None.

4. Miscellaneous Administrative Matters

Chairwoman Martin stated that the next Commission meeting will be determined at a later date.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Giaimo and seconded by Commissioner Bailey. There was a roll call vote. Commissioner Bailey voted yes. Commissioner Giaimo voted yes. Chairwoman Martin voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.