

MINUTES OF GAS & ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 16, 2026

A meeting of the Holyoke Gas and Electric Department was held on June 16, 2026, at 5:05 P.M. in the Department's offices. In attendance were Commissioners Hoey, Sutter and Marrero; Manager Lavelle; Superintendents Steve Roy and Brian Roy; Kirk Jonah, Lisa Rogers, and Attorney John Ferriter.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hoey called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M.

MINUTES:

On a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes from May 12, 2026.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF MANAGER:

Financial Report:

Mr. Lavelle reviewed the draft April 2026 financial statements. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

DIVISION REPORTS:

GAS DIVISION

Mr. Brian Roy reported that 64% of planned summer gas is locked in price, 24% of forecasted winter gas is also locked in price, and that wholesale natural gas purchases continue to be executed consistent with the hedging plan for the current 12-month procurement window. He then reviewed June natural gas rate comparisons, noting that the Department remains very competitive in all rate classes. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

He then noted that construction is ongoing at the LNG I&R Project and that contractors are pouring the impoundment for the new tank and working on electrical installation. He noted that contractors are on schedule for September completion of the non-jurisdictional portion of work. He then noted that staff are working on a design update with Sanborn Head to integrate the new tank at the site and that near-final drawings are due by the end of October.

Mr. Roy then reported that gas construction contractor crews continue to replace the cast iron main on Sargeant Street, between Northampton Street and Saint Jerome Avenue and have replaced 4 of 42 services. He stated that crews have eliminated 850 feet of cast iron main on Cabot Street over the past month as part of the PHMSA FY2022 Grant project. He also reported that there are currently zero (0) leaks on file and that the leak survey contractor will be in town for approximately 3 months performing walking surveys of the system. He then reported that HG&E was selected as this year's winner of APGA's Excellence in Environmental Stewardship award. He noted that AGPA started this award in 2022 to recognize public gas systems that demonstrate excellence in their commitment to environmental stewardship. The award criteria evaluate applicants' commitment to continuously improve practices and maintain their infrastructure to minimize greenhouse gas emissions from natural

gas distribution systems, as well as evaluate and/or plan for the use of new fuels, such as RNG and hydrogen. Mr. Roy noted that, over the years, the Gas Division has done a phenomenal job adhering to existing protocols, updating practices, processes, and procedures based on best management practices and evaluating new technologies to help demonstrate this commitment. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

POWER SUPPLY

Mr. Steve Roy reviewed the June electric rate comparisons and reported that the Department remains competitive in all rate classes compared to regional peers and is currently the lowest, or second lowest, in all categories. He then reviewed the June Mark-to-Market report and reported that all transactions and counter-party default risks are within policy limits. He also gave an update on peak load reduction activities and noted that the May peak occurred on May 19th, hour-ending 17, and that 6.16 MW were shed via Department load reducers. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Roy gave an update on electric distribution maintenance and construction activities, noting that seven of 38 planned projects have been completed with the remaining projects on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. He noted that planned manhole inspections (280) have been completed as well as the reconductoring of the 52W9 circuit. He also noted that Haugland Energy Group has completed prep work for the Southampton Rd and Westfield Rd cable replacement and will return in August to complete that job. He then reported that planned AMI meter installations are 60% complete, with 1,441 AMI meters having been installed since January 1st. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC PRODUCTION

Mr. Roy reported that hydro production is tracking above plan and that generation for the first six months of the year is projected to be 4% below plan. He noted that Northern Construction has begun to mobilize to replace the rubber bladder and that the plan is to lower the pond on July 6th to allow for the installation of flashboards. He then gave a brief update on Cobble Mountain Unit #3 rebuild and also gave an update on other ongoing projects. He also noted that the Annual FERC inspection of Project 2004 was conducted on June 2nd and that there were no major findings. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jonah gave an update on sales and operations activity. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Ms. Rogers gave a brief update on budget program applications, fuel assistance, and collections activity. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lavelle distributed copies of the 2025 Annual Report to the Commission. He noted that June 21st is the last day of the season for the Robert E. Barrett Fishway and that approximately 5,500 people have visited the facility so far this season. There was a discussion on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

CERTIFICATE OF VOTE – MGL CH.164, S47D: Attorney Ferriter presented a certificate of vote and recommended that the commission approve the vote to authorize the manager to implement Massachusetts General Law Chapter 164, Section 47D to protect customer data from being subject to public records requests. He noted that customer data is competitive information for behind-the-meter generation and other service providers. Commissioner Hoey asked why the proposed language was so narrow as to the purpose for the vote. Attorney Ferriter stated that the language could be broadened. Commissioner Marrero stated that he wanted to ensure that residential customer data was also protected from disclosure due to competitive concerns. After a discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously.

- VOTED:
- (1) to authorize and direct James M. Lavelle, Manager and the Department to implement MGL c. 164 s. 47D for all customer data due to competition concerns; and
 - (2) that the Manager and the Department are hereby authorized and directed to take any other action they deem necessary or advisable to carry out the purposes of these votes; and
 - (3) that any actions taken by the Manager or the Department consistent with the purposes of these votes are hereby ratified and confirmed.

BID AUTHORIZATIONS:

TRAFFIC CONTROL FLAGGER SERVICES: Mr. Lavelle requested authorization to solicit bids for Traffic Control Flagger Services to augment the Holyoke Police Department and Auxiliary Police traffic details. He noted that due to heavy demand for resources and difficulty getting details for certain maintenance and construction projects, additional resources are required to safely perform the jobs. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to authorize the bid per the recommendation of management.

BIDS RECEIVED:

SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE – ANNUAL CONTRACT: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the bid for Specialty Construction and Facilities Maintenance to Garland Construction Corp., the low and only bidder meeting all requirements of the solicitation. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to award the bid per the recommendation of management.

Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission enter into Executive Session to approve outstanding Executive Session minutes.

Chairman Hoey stated that the Commission would enter Executive Session to approve outstanding minutes and return to Regular Session after the brief Executive Session. On a roll call vote, it was unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session.

Chairman Hoey reconvened the Regular Session of the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Commissioner Sutter made a motion to make public the February 8, 2011, Executive Session minutes. Commissioner Marrero seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Marrero announced that his term as commissioner expires on June 30th and that this would likely be his last commission meeting. He thanked the Commission and staff for the opportunity to serve as commissioner for the past six years. Chairman Hoey thanked Mr. Marrero for his service.

COMMUNICATIONS:

05/27/26 – Draft Commission Meeting Minutes from 05/12/26

05/28/26 – JL/BM/Financial Statements, Balance Sheet & Summary Reports – April 2026

06/09/26 – SR/JB/Authorization to Bid – Traffic Control Flagger Services

06/08/26 – JL/CW/Bid Recommendation – Specialty Construction & Facilities Maintenance Annual Contract

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would take place on Tuesday, July 14th at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the Meeting at 6:10 P.M.

HG&E Commission