

## PRELIMINARY MINUTES

Notice was duly published February 11, 2020 on page 6 of The Daily Record that the regular public meeting of the Commissioners of the Nebraska Public Service Commission would be held on February 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln.

Chair Mary Ridder called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 10:00 AM. with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier present. Chair Ridder stated that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room and invited the public to address the Commission. No public comments were received. Joshua Medeiros was welcomed back to the Commission's Transportation Department as an Investigator.

Attention was called to the following proceedings:

Tuesday, February 25, 2020:

### **Commission Meeting**

10:00 a.m. - Commission Hearing Room

### COMMUNICATIONS/NUSF DEPARTMENT

C-5079 In the Matter of the Application of Hartman Telephone Exchanges, Inc., Benkelman, Nebraska, seeking to adjust its depreciation rates. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson, to enter an Order granting withdrawal of application. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades excused not voting.

C-5094 In the Matter of the Commission, on its own Motion, to determine the surcharge for the statewide Telecommunications Relay System, to be effective July 1, 2020. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, to enter an Order opening docket and setting a hearing for Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades excused not voting.

NUSF-57, In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on PO #6 its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Telehealth Program. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson, to enter an Order regarding the HealthCare Connect Fund, seeking comments due on or before April 7, 2020. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades excused not voting.

## PRELIMINARY MINUTES

### COMMUNICATIONS/NUSF DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

NUSF-92.49 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program: Application to the Nebraska Broadband Program received from: Allo Communications, LLC, and Lincoln Public Schools/Adoption. Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram, to enter an Order granting amended Application. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades excused not voting.

### STATE 911 DEPARTMENT

911-042.33 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: City of Lincoln. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram to enter an Order approving use of set-aside funds. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

### NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT

NG-100 In the Matter of the Joint Application of Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC, and Black Hills/Nebraska Gas Utility Company, LLC, Rapid City, South Dakota, seeking approval to consolidate the Nebraska tariffs, assets, liabilities, and operations of the two companies, and to rename the consolidated entity Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC. Commissioner Dan Watermeier presiding as Hearing Officer;

NG-101 In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, opening an investigatory docket for the purpose of general monitoring of issues regarding the natural gas industry and jurisdictional utilities in Nebraska. Commissioner Rod Johnson residing as Hearing Officer; and

NG-101.1 Black Hills/Nebraska Gas Utility Company, LLC, and Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC, d/b/a Black Hills Energy. Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, to enter assessment orders NG-100/BA-16; NG-101.1/BA-8 and BW-2. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

## PRELIMINARY MINUTES

### NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

E-2467 In the Matter of the Application of Nebraska Public Power District, Columbus, Nebraska, seeking authority to construct, operate and maintain an electric transmission line in Gage County; and

E-2468 In the Matter of the Application of Lincoln Electric System, Lincoln, Nebraska, seeking authority to construct, operate and maintain an electric transmission line in Lancaster County. Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram, to enter orders granting the applications. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

### LEGISLATIVE

Nichole Mulcahy discussed pending legislation.

### TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

B-1947 In the Matter of the Application of Rockstar Transportation, LLC, Omaha, seeking cancellation and revocation of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in Application B-1947. No Motion was made to enter an Order cancelling certificate; and

B-1965 In the Matter of the Application of Good Times, LLC, Humphrey, seeking to cancel and revoke is Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued in Application No. B-1965. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, to enter an Order cancelling certificates in B-1947 and B-1965. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

B-2002 In the Matter of the Application of Oceans Enterprise, LLC d/b/a Oceans Drive Transportation, Omaha, seeking authority as a common carrier in Nebraska intrastate commerce in the transportation of passengers by van and SUV in open class service between points in Buffalo, Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Sarpy and Washington counties. RESTRICTIONS: The transportation of railroad train crews and their baggage is not authorized. HHS Designation: Yes. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson to enter an Order granting application as amended. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

TR-215/  
B-1958 In the Matter of Blair Blue Cab, LLC, Blair, seeking to amend its rates and charges subject to the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson, to enter an Order on Rates. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

GRAIN WAREHOUSE DEPARTMENT

GW-852 In the Matter of the Application of Country Partners Cooperative, Gothenburg, Nebraska, requesting a \$25,000 deductible on its stock insurance. Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier To enter an order granting application. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

GDC-444 In the Matter of the Complaint of Mike Bartels, Director of the Nebraska Public Service Commission Grain Warehouse Department, Complainant, vs. Organic Producers Iowa Nebraska South Dakota Cooperative, North Bend, Nebraska, Respondent: Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson To enter a petition for order to cease and desist and seek administrative fines. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director's recommendation to approve Commission invoices. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

The following invoices were paid between 2/4/20 and 2/18/20 and should be ratified:

Mary Ridder	\$	975.20
Dan Watermeier	\$	391.00

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

\*\*\*\*\*

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier present. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 21, 2019 at 10:00 AM with an agenda to be available in the office of the Executive Director at 10:00 AM on May 20, 2019.

---

Chair

---

Executive Director