

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
July 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Otis Perry, Chair
Ken Mailloux
Thomas Moses
Deborah de Moulpied
Louis Pare
Dwayne Wrightsman
Amy Manzelli

Present for the OCA:

Rorie Hollenberg
Stephen Eckberg
Donna McFarland
Christina Martin

Public:

Heidi Kroll, Lobbyist and Policy Analyst at Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell, P.C

1. Minutes of May 7, 2012 Meeting

Mr. Perry declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. Mr. Perry asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Mailloux moved to accept the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Wrightsman. Ms. Manzelli abstained from voting. The Board unanimously approved the January minutes as drafted.

2. Status Update re Consumer Advocate Position

Ms. Hollenberg informed the board that she contacted Jennifer Kuzma regarding the timing and schedule that is possible for nominations and confirmation to be made. Ms. Kuzma confirmed that if the Governor puts forth a name on 7/11/12, the confirmation could come no sooner than 8/8/12. Ms. Hollenberg explained that one of the candidates has called seeking information about the status of the Board's recommendation to the Governor. Mr. Perry indicated that he did not feel that the OCA or the Board have any further responsibility in this process and that the applicants should contact the Governor's office if they seek information. There was some discussion regarding the possibility of the Governor nominating an individual other than the ones recommended by the Board. Ms. Hollenberg indicated that she was unsure about whether or not the statute (RSA 363:28-a) permitted that course of action; the statute seems to not explicitly forbid it. Ms. Hollenberg also informed the Board that the OCA has adjusted its work load in response to the reduced staffing level resulting from Ms. Hatfield's departure and the continued vacancy of the Consumer Advocate position. The Board discussed the Governor and Council meeting scheduled for July 10 and asked the OCA staff to apprise the Board of whether or not a nomination is put forth at that meeting.

3. Case Activity Update

Ms. Hollenberg summarized significant developments in the cases from the Case Update list. The Board spoke favorably about the new format for the case activity update, which was revised in response to comments from the Board at its last meeting.

4. Board Terms Expiring

The Board briefly discussed the expiring terms of several members: Mr. Pare, Mr. Wrightsman and Mr. Moses. At the chair's request, the OCA sent letters to the appointing authority (Speaker of the House) for these positions and Ms. Martin sought information from these Board members about the status of their re-appointment. Mr. Moses indicated that he had received a reconfirmation notice. Neither Mr. Pare nor Mr. Wrightsman had received any such notice.

5. Other topics

None.

6. Public Comment

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

The Board's next meeting is Monday September 10, 2012, at 2:00pm.