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STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 20-0703-PET
Vermont Legal Aid request for moratorium
on utility and telecommunications shutoffs
during State of Emergency

Response of Village of Hyde Park Electric Department
to Order Extending Moratorium and Requesting Utility Plans

We request that the moratorium applicable to HPE end August 1, 2020, and we believe that the arrears data and other detail in this report supports our request. HPE offers these responses to the specific questions identified in the May 28th, 2020 order.

What is the magnitude of past-due balances and how many customers have past-due balances? How does this compare with the same time period last year? Please break out this data into residential and non-residential customers.

The electric department past-due balance as of June 1, 2020 was \$88,019.63 (approximately 4% of total operating revenues), with \$53,451.13 from residential customers and \$34,568.50 from non-residential customers.

From June 1, 2019 to June 1, 2020, past-due balances increased by \$45,900.21 (approximately 2.1% of total operating revenues), with \$16,381.22 from residential customers and \$29,518.99 from non-residential customers.

From March, 2019 to March, 2020, HPE electric customers reduced their past-due balances by \$21,104.98. As a further example of staff's ability to work well with customers, water and wastewater arrears reflect a reduction in total change from prior year, March to June 2020. There were no disconnections of water or wastewater department customers during these periods.

The chart titled "Delinquent Accounts, Village of Hyde Park" shown on page 2 provides detail.

Delinquent Amounts Village of Hyde Park					HP Water & Wastewater
		residential	non residential		
Mar-19	\$ 66,769.70	\$ 60,982.93	\$ 5,786.77	\$ 13,177.33	
Apr-19	\$ 47,419.35	\$ 41,314.01	\$ 6,105.34	\$ 11,636.21	
May-19	\$ 40,505.92	\$ 34,708.58	\$ 5,797.34	\$ 10,614.14	
Jun-19	\$ 42,119.42	\$ 37,069.91	\$ 5,049.51	\$ 11,096.99	
Mar-20	\$ 45,664.72	\$ 43,074.97	\$ 2,589.75	\$ 10,285.66	
Apr-20	\$ 66,813.13	\$ 55,036.34	\$ 11,776.79	\$ 10,794.39	
May-20	\$ 85,575.39	\$ 58,462.86	\$ 27,112.53	\$ 11,224.46	
Jun-20	\$ 88,019.63	\$ 53,451.13	\$ 34,568.50	\$ 11,311.43	

Total Change from Prior Year

March	\$ (21,104.98)	\$ (17,907.96)	\$ (3,197.02)	\$ 2,891.67
April	\$ 19,393.78	\$ 13,722.33	\$ 5,671.45	\$ 841.82
May	\$ 45,069.47	\$ 23,754.28	\$ 21,315.19	\$ (610.32)
June	\$ 45,900.21	\$ 16,381.22	\$ 29,518.99	\$ 214.44

How will past-due balances accrued during the moratorium be addressed with customers, and how will past-due balances accrued before or after the moratorium be addressed with customers?

HPE will follow the PUC disconnection rules and renew our practice of reasonable payment agreements with our customers. During this period, we have not been able to make payments on our line-of-credit, we lack adequate working capital, therefore unpaid arrears must be addressed in a rate filing.

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Will reasonable payment arrangements be made available? If so, of what duration?

After the moratorium, HPE will renew its practice of making reasonable payment arrangements with both residential and non-residential customers. While we would prefer that the duration of payment arrangements remain four to six months or less, it is important to acknowledge the pandemic and the unknown future.

Will late fees be imposed or waived for past-due balances accrued before, during, or after the moratorium?

We are charging the approved tariff 1% penalty; this keeps us in compliance with the tariff.

Is the utility seeking outside funds (e.g., federal or private monies) to help offset the past-due balances accrued as a result of the moratorium? If so, and if such funds are received, how will the utility apply the funds to its customers' arrearages?

To our knowledge, HPE is not eligible for outside funds to help offset the past-due balances accrued as a result of the moratorium. Therefore, HPE has not applied for and does not expect any funds to assist in customers' arrearages. We ask for financial assistance from the state.

Dated at Hyde Park, Vermont, this 19th day of June 19, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
VILLAGE OF HYDE PARK, INC.
HYDE PARK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

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