



NEWS RELEASE - for immediate release

Holland BPW and TPOAM settle union contract

Holland, MI. June 29, 2009 -- The Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) and the Technical, Professional, and Office Workers Association of Michigan (TPOAM) have reached agreement on a new three-year labor contract. The utility's Board of Directors reviewed and approved the terms of the new labor contract at a meeting on June 29, 2009. TPOAM Holland BPW Utilities Local members had previously ratified the agreement at a union meeting held on June 10, 2009. The agreement is pending approval by the Holland City Council.

The settlement includes no wage increase for the first year of the contract; and an increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 0-5% for the second year and 1-5% in the third year.

In addition, union members will contribute 7.5% of the monthly cost of their health insurance.

The new agreement covers 95 HBPW employees (approximately 54% of the utility's workforce). The agreement replaces a labor contract which expired March 30, 2009, but had been extended to allow for both parties to complete the renewal discussions.

"I am pleased that union and company representatives were able to reach consensus on a number of difficult issues," said HBPW General Manager Loren Howard. "We are all aware of the current economic situation. This agreement is an appropriate response to these difficult times. The Holland BPW has a workforce that is skilled and committed to serving this community. This is reflected in our customer service, a history of strong system reliability at rates that are among the lowest. We look forward to continuing to build on our good relationship with our unionized employees during the term of this contract."

Lorenzo Spoor, president of the TPOAM local, stated, "Our jobs involve providing essential services to the people and businesses in this community, and we take this responsibility seriously. We appreciate the frank and open communication that occurred as we negotiated this labor agreement, and as members of this community we look forward to continuing to provide responsive, professional service to our neighbors and customers."

The Holland Board of Public Works is a municipally owned utility, providing electricity, water filtration, wastewater treatment, and fiber optic data services to the City of Holland and surrounding communities.

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