

Minutes of July 1, 2009

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, George Ainsleigh, Kevin Lashua

Stan Herriott Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Commissioner Ainsleigh asked for a motion to accept the Minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua, the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ainsleigh recognized the Ashby Citizens Group consisting of two members, Allen Peas and Mike McKenzie. They came to discuss with the Commissioners Ashburnham Light Department taking over the Town of Ashby's electrical system from Unitil. A general discussion was held on the possibilities. Manager Herriott said that as far as he could see it would be physically possible. However, the Municipal Bill is still pending and that could prevent anything from happening, further discussion was held on the pros and cons. Allen and Mike thanked the Commissioners for their time and left the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Manager Herriott reviewed the budget through June 2009, he pointed out that we were doing well and that we more than likely would not have to do a rate increase for the month of July. If the price of electric remains stable we might be able to hold the rates for the rest of the year. The budget is tracking very close to projections with total revenue at \$2,492,856 and expenses at \$2,355,289, or 50% of projection for receipts and 48% for expenses.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners the MMWEC power cost projections for the rest of the year and for 2010. The average cost for wholesale power for the remaining months of this year is projected to be \$86.70 per megawatt hour or .867 cents per Kwh. The average for next year is projected to be \$90.70 per megawatt hour or .907 cents per Kwh.

Manager Herriott reported that we have in fact been able to finalize the agreement with Renewable Energy Trust. We would begin putting the charge on the bill in July and make our first payment in August. Manager Herriott said this will allow the residents of Ashburnham and anyone looking to do a renewable energy project to apply for funds to the Massachusetts Technical Collaborative. Other benefits would include possible funds for the new JR Briggs School Project as well as funds for AMLP to pursue our wind project.

Manager Herriott mentioned that the old truck 63 was accidentally backed into a tree and is in need of some body work. If we are going to keep it for a couple of years we probably will get it repaired. The Commissioners agreed that we should get it fixed and keep it for the on call truck.

Manager Herriott informed the Commissioners that we are going to be taking online payments through Unibank which is the same bank the town uses for tax payments. Customers will be able to pay by a transfer from their checking account for no additional charge, however, if they want to pay by credit card they will have to pay a flat service charge, 0-99 dollars is \$2.50 and the scale goes up from there. There is no cost to the Light Department which meets the DPU rules which say that we cannot socialize the cost of this convenience over our general customer base.

Manager Herriott presented his expenses for the month of June which totaled \$50.81. They were approved.

It was also voted to suspend Board Meetings for the rest of July and August 2009 and resume them the 3rd Wednesday of September. The motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ahlin,
Secretary