

Minutes of October 28, 2009

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Kevin Lashua

Stan Herriott Manager

Absent due to sickness: George Ainsleigh

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

Commissioner Ahlin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 16th 2009 meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua, the vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott reviewed the budget through September 2009. Commissioner Lashua asked about the mailing machine expense. Manager Herriott said he was not sure why we were over projections but he would check into it and get back to him.

Presently we are running about 1% over revenue projections and are running about 5% under budget for expenses for the year. The budget is tracking very close to projections with total revenue through September at \$3,795,490 and expenses at \$3,442,849.

Manager Herriott presented the first draft of the 2010 operating budget, with projections of revenue set at 4,736,114.00 and expenses projected at 4,535,795.00. Manager Herriott said he did not expect the Commissioners to vote at this time it was just a first review. Manager Herriott also mentioned that he would have the capital budget prepared for the next meeting.

Manager Herriott brought to the Commissioners for their approval the new AMLP policy 3000-6. This policy principally concerns itself with security deposits, and sets out the responsibilities of the landlord with respect to insuring that tenants fulfill their obligations to the Light Department. Manager Herriott asked for a vote, a motion was

made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin. The vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott also brought to the Commissioners the amended AMLP Terms and Conditions for their approval. The amendments to the Terms and Conditions are a result of the approval of the AMLP Policy 3000-6. Manager Herriott asked for a vote, a motion was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin. The vote was unanimous. Manager Herriott said that he would forward a copy of the newly approved Terms and Conditions to the Department of Public Utilities.

Manager Herriott gave an update on the Berkshire Wind Project. We have experienced a set back in this project. Silver Leaf was successful in convincing a land court Judge to issue an injunction that prevented us from using a small portion of the roadway we built in Hancock to assess the project. Without use of this section of the road, we cannot finish the project. At issue is a 2004 special permit, and the question is did we substantially use the roadway within the required 2 year period. The issues are yet to be resolved. This will stop the project for the winter, and will cost the project participants some where in the area of an additional 3 million dollars to stop and restart in the spring.

Manager Herriott also gave a brief update to the Ashburnham Wind Project, saying that the first results to date look promising and he is working with the MTC to secure funding for a feasibility study. These studies normally cost in the area of 50 to 60 thousand dollars and he hopes to get the funding from the MTC. He also mentioned that regardless of the funding source we should do the study to keep the process moving forward. We are working with Mr. Vanhoof to get control of the land via a long term lease agreement which we hope to have in place soon. Manager Herriott also estimated that the total project cost which would include two 1.5 MW turbines would be in the area of 7.6 million dollars. If all things fall in to place we could see construction begin in 2011.

Manager Herriott gave Commissioner Ahlin updates on the Stony Brook Project saying that we have a meeting scheduled on October 28th to discuss the joint facilities study outcome and the present situation with regard to Stoney Brook 3.

Manager expenses were approved for the month of October for \$523.45

Manager Herriott let the Commissioners know that we are now accepting payments on line through Uni-Bank ACH transfers and credit cards, the later of which has a fee structure associated with there use.

Manager Herriott included information on GE wind turbines and the Town Managers Report.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ahlin,
Secretary