

Minutes of December 15, 2010
Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board
Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin & Mark Carlisle
Stan Herriott Manager
Absent; Commissioner Kevin Lashua

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The 2010 Budget through November was emailed to the Commissioners earlier this month and was discussed. Manager Herriott pointed out that the receipts continued to run about 6% over the estimate, this was generally due to higher usage through the summer months. While expenses are running about 4% under expectations, due to lower power costs. While working with MMWEC we have been executing contracts for power supply costs out 18 months in advance which we will continue to do. We are also closing the open portion of our market exposure somewhat, anticipating that we can continue to add stability to our rate structure.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners a copy of the 2011 budget which was reviewed, last month. The Commissioners reviewed both the Capital and Expense Budget. Manager Herriott answered questions and concerns that the Commissioners voiced. After the discussion and some suggested amendments to the draft of the 2011 Budget was funded at \$4,746,249.00 A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Carlisle to accept the budget. Chairman Ahlin called for a vote which was unanimous. The Manager expenses were approved for \$164.21

Manager Herriott gave an update on the Berkshire Wind Project. It is the expectation that the project will become available on line mid-February. The cost of power is higher than the original prospective projected rate. The rate should be in the area of 10 cents per Kwh. We expect to have the dedication ceremony in May in conjunction with the MMWEC annual meeting.

Manager Herriott told the Commissioners the final bonds were sold last week to fund the debt for the Berkshire Wind Project. MMWEC did not do as well as we had hoped on the interest rate, due to the bond market being weak and the need to complete the transaction prior to the end of the year we had to move forward regardless. The total bonds issued were \$66,360,000.00 of which AMLP is responsible for 4.573% of the debt or \$3,034,643.00 over the life of the project and will receive .69 MW's of the total 15 MW output.

Manager Herriott discussed the Clean Energy grant that we received to further our wind project. Commissioner Carlisle and Manager Herriott went to Boston for the kick off meeting with the people from the Massachusetts Renewable Trust. AMLP will receive \$55,000.00 towards the total project cost of \$78,000.00 to complete the feasibility study. Manager Herriott said that he will be setting up a meeting with the group that will be working on the project.

The Commissioners and Manager Herriott had a general discussion on all the renewable projects that are now under consideration here in Ashburnham. Manager Herriott has an inquiry from the same company Winchendon uses for their solar AXEO. They have expressed interest in a large solar project in Ashburnham. The company will be coming to meet with Ashburnham sometime in January. The Commissioners expressed some concern on the performance of possible solar suppliers. This discussion lead to the idea that we may need to go out for a Request for Qualifications, in order to ensure that we acquire a company that has the expertise to follow through with a project.

Manager Herriott said that he is eager to see a combination of both solar and wind developed here in Ashburnham. Commissioner Carlisle said he felt renewable energy was the one chance we have to bring industry to Ashburnham and that it would have a positive impact on the town for many years.

Manager Herriott said we had a request from Police Chief Barrett to have the Light Department pay for putting lights under the new solar carport. Manager Herriott said he had no problem with this as it would complete the project. The Commissioners looked at the quote

received by the police chief. However, they thought this quote rather high. After some discussion they agreed to pay for the cost of installing the lighting and plugs but directed Manager Herriott to ask Police Chief Barrett to acquire at least one more quote. The Light Department would then agree to pay for the lowest price that completed the scope of the work.

Manager Herriott then opened a discussion regarding the David Goodall situation. David was scheduled to have another MRI on Monday the 13th of December then once the results were ready he would be meeting with his doctors. David is still having problems with the injury to his finger. Manager Herriott said that he has begun the paper work to remove him from the AMLP payroll and on to the long term disability policy available to employees of the Light Department. Manager Herriott felt that it is unlikely that he will be returning to work anytime soon.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners two requests for advertising community events with our bills. The Commissioners reviewed and approved them. One of the requests is for the Conservation Trust and the second is for a school reading program.

Manager Herriott also presented a letter he had received from Dillon Handy, complimenting the Light Department on our LED lighting that we installed at the intersections of Corey Hill Rd., Rte. 101 and Rte. 12.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle to adjourn at 9:10 P.M. seconded by Commissioner Ahlin. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Carlisle
Secretary