

Minutes of September 15, 2010

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Mark Carlisle and Kevin Lashua

Stan Herriott Manager

David Columbo, Consulting Engineers, Ben Snyder Solaya, Seth K. Jacobson, Palmer Capital Corporation

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

The regular session minutes of the May 19th and June 16th, were reviewed and voted. A motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin. The vote was unanimous.

A review of the budget was completed, Manager Herriott pointed out that our cash was up slightly due to a payment from Verizon under the joint use agreement, the payment of the annual flush of funds from MMWEC and the refunding of a transmission overbilling by National Grid.

Commissioner Lashua arrived at the meeting at 7:20 P.M. The Minutes of August 11th open session were reviewed and voted. A motion was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Commissioner Carlisle. The vote was unanimous with Commissioner Ahlin abstaining as he was not in attendance at that meeting.

The Commissioners entered into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing and accepting the Executive Session minutes of August 11, 2010. This is the only business to be conducted in Executive Session and once completed the meeting would be reconvened in open session. The motion to enter Executive Session was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Commissioner Carlisle. A roll call vote was taken.

Commissioner Ahlin “AYE”

Commissioner Lashua “AYE”

Commissioner Carlisle “AYE”

The meeting convened in Executive session. 7:25 P.M.

The meeting reconvened in open session at 7:35 P.M.

Ben Snyder from Solaya opened the discussion on the interaction between the proposed wind site and the solar installation with regard to line capacity. He had concerns that the solar might somehow restrict the ability of the wind project to generate at its full potential. David Columbo from Consulting Engineers led the discussion with regard to the engineering aspects of the two projects and after some discussion the consensus was that the two projects would complement each other not oppose each other. The solar being stronger in the summer peaking period and the wind contributing more during the winter period. There was also a discussion of the height restriction imposed by the Ashburnham Wind Sighting Bylaw of 400 feet. The new turbines overall height standards are now about 410 feet. The standard height has risen slightly to improve the efficiencies of the turbines to improve production while keeping the same footprint. Ben Snyder was concerned as to what problems this slight increase in height might cause. The general discussion that followed was that the Board and Manager Herriott felt that we had good support for the project and although a special permit would be required that would not be a large obstacle that would prevent the project moving forward.

There was further discussion centered on the system improvements that AMLP would be required to make to accommodate the project. Manager Herriott said that he looked at the project as a true partnership where we would do what we do and they would do what they do to make the project successful. At the completion Seth K. Jacobson and Ben Snyder thanked the Commissioners and left the meeting.

The meeting continued with Manager Herriott reviewing the request made by MMWEC to NPCC to have Ashburnham and several other small municipals de-listed from the NPCC and NERC requirements. Manager Herriott stated this would certainly lift a great reporting burden from the shoulders of AMLP. He went on to say that he had tried to make this happen once before and was unsuccessful; although he feels that we should be de-listed he has doubts that it will happen.

The Commissioners discussed and voted the new vacation policy that had been tabled at the June meeting; the new policy will take effect today. Manager Herriott will distribute the new policy to employees.

Manager Herriott presented his expenses and they were approved in the amount of \$86.29.

Manager Herriott requested that the Commissioners consider changing the October meeting to the 13th from the 20th as he would be away on vacation. Commissioner Ahlin also said that he would be away as well. The Commissioners agreed that the meeting date would be changed to Wednesday October 13, 2010.

A brief discussion on the status of the Berkshire Wind Project was next. Manager Herriott said that an agreement had been reached. The next step was Monday the 20th of September we would be applying for a new special permit to regain use of the access road in the town of Hancock. If granted the project could begin construction again after the 21 day waiting period sometime mid October.

Manager Herriott gave an update of the two solar projects in Ashburnham. He stated that the school project was completed and just waiting for the internet connection to be completed and the placards to identify the electrical disconnects to be installed. Regarding the Public safety building the racking has been delivered and the assembly is to begin this week. The inside work is mostly complete with only the installation of the wire remaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle to adjourn at 9:25 P.M. seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Carlisle
Secretary