

Minutes of December 21, 2011

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin & Mark Carlisle

Stan Herriott, Manager

Absent: Kevin Lashua

Others Present: Alana Melanson, Reporter Sentinel & Enterprise

Chairman Ahlin opened the meeting at 7:10 P. M.

There were no customer or citizen comments.

Chairman Ahlin asked for approval of the November 16, 2011 Minutes, after some discussion Commissioner Carlisle made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 16, 2011. The motion was seconded by Chairman Ahlin. The vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott mentioned that the Executive Session Minutes could be approved and released. The Commissioners agreed and Commissioner Carlisle made the motion which was seconded by Chairman Ahlin. The vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott mentioned that the representative from MIIA insurance, Charles Winn was scheduled to come to our meeting but would not be able to attend due to a family situation. Manager Herriott said that he would try to reschedule him for the January meeting.

Manager Herriott briefly discussed the 2011 budget review that was sent by email and asked if the Commissioners had any issues. They indicated they did not have any issues with it.

Manager Herriott reviewed the budget through November:

November Receipts:	\$376,972.00
November Expenses:	\$397,435.00
YTD Receipts:	\$4,566,080.00
YTD Expenses:	\$4,477,665.00

Manager Herriott explained that most of the deficit was due to the Berkshire Wind Project coming on line which has added about \$26,000.00 per month for maintenance costs.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners a copy of the operating budget chart for them to review again before they voted. The overall budget is expected to be \$5,272,918.00. After a short discussion Commissioner Carlisle made a motion to approve the budget and it was seconded by Chairman Ahlin. The vote was unanimous.

The Capital budget was not voted on at this meeting.

Manager Herriott's expenses for the month of November totaled \$181.83.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners a chart showing the expected electrical transmission charges for the next 3 to 4 years. This will have a large impact on ratepayers throughout New England.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners copies of the latest overall power cost projections sent by MMWEC. It is expected to be in the area of \$95.1 (9.51 cents per KWH) dollars per Megawatt hour through 2013.

Manager Herriott reported that the new gas fired generation (Project2006A) plant to be built on MMWEC property in Ludlow was still on hold. The project 2006A participants have met and reviewed the cost to keep the project active and all the permitting in place for another year it would be \$290,000.00. Ashburnham's share would be \$4,023.00. The participants felt that since we have already

invested over \$5,000,000.00 in the permitting and design this would be an acceptable cost to protect the asset. Chairman Ahlin questioned whether or not we would be extending the gas line to connect directly to the gas transmission system. Manager Herriott reported that he was unable to attend that meeting but he felt that the idea was to finish the last 9 miles of the pipeline and connect directly to the gas transmission system, Chairman Ahlin agreed.

Manager Herriott brought up the idea of the Light Department having our own web page. Manager Herriott felt that the Town's site is becoming too cluttered and somewhat difficult to use for electrical customers. This would allow better use of the social media products out there that young people are using today. Manager Herriott said that he received a proposal from the Bingham's. They own and operate a company called Comfort Zones. The cost was in the area of \$3,900 to \$4,800 to design and build the Web site. Manager Herriott said that he had other prices before for over \$5,000.00. The Commissioners agreed that it was time to make this change. A motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Chairman Ahlin. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ahlin inquired about the Downtown Project and the issues with Verizon. Manager Herriott said that he was not able to put together a meeting with Verizon but would try to set one up for the January 18th meeting. The Commissioners agreed that it was necessary to have a meeting and discuss the cost and scope of the work to be completed by Verizon in the Downtown area. Manager Herriott mentioned that the biggest issue is dealing with the bank and the market's phone service.

Representatives from NVESTAR David Dunham and Lisa Dunham arrived to the meeting at 3:15 P.M. Mr. Dunham reported that he had the two properties under agreement one on Winchendon Road and the second one off Murray Road. The property on Murray Road would support the 2 MW system and the Winchendon Road site would support the 1 MW system. The Commissioners had several questions as to how the property was secured and if Mr. Dunham was sure the deal would be completed. After some discussion the Commissioners were satisfied. Manager Herriott mentioned that the site on Murray Road was considerably further and he would look for some financial considerations due to the extra distance. Manager Herriott said he would be putting together an estimate and sending it to Mr. Durham. Manager Herriott also asked if there was still a commitment to placing solar on the Bresnahan Community Center. Both David and Lisa Dunham confirmed their commitment. There were some questions about the completion time and it was estimated to be late summer of 2012.

Alana Melanson from the Sentinel & Enterprise had several questions which were addressed. Manager Herriott mentioned that this was a great project for rate payers of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant and that we have worked very hard to see it through. Ms. Melanson inquired as to the size of the project for the Bresnahan Community Center Manager Herriott said he did not have that answer at his fingertips but he would look it up and email it to her after the meeting. There was some discussion on the article that Ms. Melanson was going to write for the paper.

Manager Herriott requested to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The Commissioners agreed.

Chairman Ahlin asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The Board would only resume in open session to adjourn.

The motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle, seconded by Commissioner Ahlin and a roll call vote was taken:

Chairman Ahlin “AYE”

Commissioner Carlisle “AYE”

The meeting entered Executive Session at 4:25 P. M.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 4:35 P. M.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin to adjourn. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Carlisle
Secretary