

Minutes of May 18, 2011

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Mark Carlisle and Kevin Lashua

Stan Herriott Manager

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ahlin at 2:05 P.M.

Commissioner Carlisle was present. Commissioner Lashua arrival was delayed. A motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin to approve the open session minutes of April 20, 2011. The vote was unanimous. Commissioner Lashua arrived at the meeting 2:10 P.M.

New Business: Manager Herriott reviewed the budget through the month of April. Receipts for the month totaled \$455,871.00, expenses totaled \$415,364.00.

Manager Expenses were approved for \$819.11

Commissioner Ahlin addressed the issue of town assessments. Manager Herriott stated that he felt that there may be some way to quantify the annual PILOT payment that would meet everyone's expectations. There was a discussion about several different ways that we could approach increasing our commitment to the Town. Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners information on how the payments were handled in other public power communities. In reviewing these different payment methods it was clear that there was not a consistent formula for making a PILOT. Every community seems to have their own twist in how they arrived at

their payment level. The discussion continued on how we could arrive at a fair payment method. The discussion centered on a payment based on the KWH sales by the Light Plant. The Commissioners felt that this was the best structure to use to calculate the payment to the Town. The Commissioners directed Manager Herriott to prepare a letter for their review and approval stating the details of such a plan. The Commissioners agreed that it would be necessary to have a joint meeting with the Selectmen to discuss this new proposal. The Commissioners again directed Manager Herriott to contact the office of the Selectmen to attempt to set up a joint meeting for the June Commissioners' meeting.

Manager Herriott reviewed the following documents with the Commissioners.

MMWEC Challenge to Connecticut Energy Tax: This is a new tax the state of Connecticut is placing on power that will be passed along to consumers here in Massachusetts, due to our investment in Mill Stone Nuclear Plant. This will cost the consumers of Massachusetts an additional 1.2 million dollars annually. MMWEC is working with the State Attorney General's office in attempt to stop this additional fee.

Thank You from MMWEC employees for attending Annual Conference: Manager Herriott showed the Commissioners a thank you letter from the employees at MMWEC for attending the MMWEC Annual Conference. Manager Herriott mentioned that the employees put a lot of work into holding this event and were very appreciative that the Commissioners attended.

Stony Brook Fuel Cost: Manager Herriott reviewed the MMWEC oil management fund (Special Project 2005-D). This cost management plan developed by MMWEC allows for the effective management of oil costs through credit and cash.

NEPPA Annual Conference: Manager Herriott reminded the Commissioners that the NEPPA Conference would be coming up. If they were interested in attending they need to make their commitment early, as the rooms will fill up quickly this time of year.

Voltage Reduction in Test May 10, 2011: Manager Herriott reviewed the spring voltage reduction results. He explained that during the test the main breaker tripped at Oakmont High

School. This is related to an internal problem with the main breaker which the school had been informed of last year but was overlooked. The breaker needs to be tested and recalibrated. Manager Herriott said that he would work with the school to see that this gets completed.

There was a short conference call with Alex Weck from Boreal and David Colombo our electrical engineer concerning the wind feasibility study being done by them for Ashburnham Light Plant. The questions were centered around the existing communication tower near the site of the wind turbines and whether or not it had any MICROWAVE equipment on it. Or, if there are plans to place this sort of equipment on the tower. Commissioner Carlisle commented that he did not believe so because he had been recently involved in the permitting process with the Town Planning Board. Commissioner Carlisle went on to say he would get the information to Manager Herriott to confirm this. There was also a question on the delivery route the turbine would take on its way to Blood Hill. The question was if it was possible to come in from Fitchburg instead of the Ashburnham side of Rindge Road. Manager Herriott said that he did not think it was possible due to the intersection improvements in Fitchburg and the intersection of John Fitch Hwy and Ashby State Road. Manager Herriott said that he had pictures of the intersection and would forward them. Alex Weck also discussed submitting the final report to the CEC. Manager Herriott mentioned that there was a deadline of June first for a wind grant of \$400,000.00 but the feasibility report had to be completed by then. It was unclear if we would be able to make that deadline. The conference call ended at that time.

There was a short discussion on FLO Design's interest in placing 4, 100 KW units on Blood Hill 2012. They seemed really excited about the location and if the grants are available this may result in very low cost for power for the customers of Ashburnham.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin to enter into Executive Session at 3:45 P.M. to discuss trade secrets and power supply contracts. The meeting would return to open session only to discuss the next meeting time and to adjourn.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carlisle. There was a roll call vote taken.

Commissioner Ahlin	“Aye”
Commissioner Carlisle	“Aye”
Commissioner Lashua	“Aye”

The Meeting convened in Executive Session at 3:45 P.M.

The Meeting was reconvened in Open Session at 4:15 P.M.

The next meeting is to be held Wednesday June 15, 2011 at 24 Williams Road.
A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Carlisle,

Secretary