

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board
Conference Room, 24 Williams Road
Ashburnham, MA 01430

Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2016

Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Chairman
Mark Carlisle, Vice Chairman
Sarah Davis, Clerk

AMLP General Manager: Michael Rivers

Others in attendance: Anne Olivari, Jane Dancause, Jeremy Holmes, Jordan Gendron.

Meeting was called to order by Carlisle at 6:30 pm with a roll call vote. Carlisle aye, Davis aye. Ahlin was running late. Carlisle announced that meetings are subject to audio and video recording.

Motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Davis, seconded by Carlisle. Both members voted to approve.

Manager's report:

Fiber is being run in the building between the existing switch and the IT room. We will now have two servers, one main and one back up. The computer work is expected to start on October 20th. Desktops are here, they systems will run parallel for a bit then the cut over will be done. A rack was lost in shipping but that is expected in on October 20th.

Cushing Academy project- The plans were dropped off last week, they are basically the same incomplete plans given in August. Plans are not up to date and show same issues as last set. The spec for the switch is due in today (10-19-16). If the switch exceeds 25g it will need to go to bid. Another option is that Cushing provides the switch. The question then is who will own it going forward. They want the switch in place in January, which will be very difficult given delivery times and the drawing is still being modified. We do not have an estimate to Cushing and we are working with Dave Colombo on this.

National Grid: Switching one week earlier, still a question as to who will be paying for switching time. Possible dates are late November to early December. Still waiting for answers from NGrid to multiple questions.

Bucket truck: Expected bid advertising date is November 4th with the opening scheduled for November 23rd. Manager is still reviewing options for purchasing under a state contract for more flexibility. One contract being used by some MLP's isn't appropriate for this purpose according the Inspector General and Commbuys.

Rivers attended a MEAM meeting focusing on greenhouse gas. There is a big push on this and he feels we need to stay on top of the lobbying effort. We may be required to pay Alternative Compliance Payments (ACP) if we don't add more solar, even though we already have too much.

Rivers mentioned he is planning a December newsletter insert providing the customers with AMLP updates. Please give him input if you have any ideas.
Ahlin arrived at 6:45 pm

Public power week was the first week of October, led lights and thermometers were handed out. We got a lot of positive feedback on the LED lamps.

Storage grant: There has been no answer yet on the Demand Management grant we applied for. There is a large amount of money going to be available in upcoming grants. One new one is for battery storage for "critical facilities" so possibly Briggs school and the public safety building.

Rivers discussed surplus equipment. AMLP has old solar panel inverters, truck and computer parts. We will be using govdeals.com to do an online auction. Ahlin was in favor but wanted to make sure there was no responsibility linked back to AMLP. Rivers said he will advertise the auction on the web, facebook, etc.

Upcoming events: Rivers said he attended an annual investment review with the Town Treasurer and Bartholemew Associates to review depreciation and meter deposit accounts, and the associated investment strategies.

Voltage reduction testing will be done October 24th. It is done twice a year.

Lineman training will be a new topic "green power safety" on October 26th, an MMWEC managers meeting and on the 27th a HELPS and GO meeting in Shrewsbury.

Meeting scheduled are:

- Oct 24 Union negotiations
- 11-3 Greenhouse gas
- 11-4 Truck Bids Advertisement
- 11-16 Pole transfers, attachments
- 11-15,16,17 PUMP
- 11-23 Bid opening
- 12-7 Lineman safety

There was discussion about a possible town bylaw to penalize Verizon for delays in removing double poles in a reasonable time. Manager has talked to legislators, and two other municipalities that have tried this. Additional legislation is needed and will likely be put forward in this upcoming legislative session to give more enforcement power to towns.

penalty for delays.

Rivers mentioned minor issues with payroll due to Harpers, the service used by Town hall. Treasurer's office is doing a good job following up on this.

Other items: new contractor doing pole sets for drilling ledge is working out well.

Manager's expenses were signed.

No news to report on the automated meter reading system.

Manager's evaluation was discussed. A list was presented and discussed on last years goals and coming year's goals. One mentioned was pole and transformer inventory to be done. What goals would Manager be doing and what would he be assigning, in-house or outsourcing.

Approval of Minutes- Minutes of September were reviewed, some corrections were noted. Minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 15th.

Ahlin made a motion to go into Executive session at 7:55pm, under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21a. They would only reopen in regular session to adjourn. Motion seconded by Carlisle. Roll call vote was taken. Ahlin aye, Carlisle aye and Davis aye.