

Minutes of February 15, 2006

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

Present Commissioners: George Ainsleigh, Kevin Lashua, Richard Ahlin  
Stan Herriott, Manager

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Chairman Ainsleigh opened the meeting and called for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Lashua moved the agenda and Commissioner Ahlin seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ainsleigh asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2006 meeting. Commissioner Lashua made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Ahlin. The vote was unanimous.

A discussion was held on the 2006 budget, which had been reviewed at the January meeting, but no official vote was taken. Manager Herriott said that it was important to go forward and vote on the budget. The Commissioners had some questions on the power supply projections for the year. Manager Herriott said that he used MMWEC projections this year. Manager Herriott went on to say that normally he would try to adjust them, however, given the energy situation today he felt the MMWEC estimate was the most reliable information we had to date so decided to go ahead and use it. Other things in the budget basically remained the same. There was a review of the Capital Budget which mainly focused on the new Automated Meter System, trucks that are in the budget for this year and new radio system. There was a lengthy discussion on how to go forward with replacing the trucks.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Commissioner Lashua made a motion to accept the 2006 Operating and Capital Additions Budget for 2006. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ahlin and the vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott gave a review of the January expenses and revenue. Both receipts and expenses were down from the projections with receipts being about 3% below projections and expenses being 13% below.

Manager Herriott gave an update of the Restated Service Agreement. What has happened is the Board has decided to rescind the need for all the systems to vote on the restated agreement until the end of this year. The Board felt that membership has lost confidence in MMWEC and felt that it was prudent to allow the membership to regain the confidence in MMWEC before having to sign the agreement.

Manager Herriott said there is an upcoming MEAM meeting for Managers and Commissioners. It will be April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and will be held at the Cape. Commissioner Ainsleigh will be attending. Manager Herriott asked if there was anyone else that would like to attend. He went on to say this meeting is designed to discuss current topics and meet with the new Managers and Commissioners.

Manager Herriott gave an update on the new GM that was hired by the Board for MMWEC. He will be on board by the end of February. The Board believes we made a good choice and have all agreed to back out of the daily operations of the company. Today the Board seems united and feels that having a strong General Manager is the only way to succeed for MMWEC.

Manager Herriott reported on the “Buck for A Bulb” program for the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, it has been going well and is well received by our customers.

Manager Herriott gave a quick update on the standards the DTE would like to see regarding shut offs. The biggest news is related to a payment plan, where customers must be allowed the opportunity to make a regular payment after being shut off and not have to pay the total to get the power turned back on.

Manager Herriott gave a report on the opportunities we have to start looking to secure the power supply for Ashburnham. It is generally agreed by most municipals that building generation is the only tool available to us to stabilize our cost of generation. Manager Herriott reported that the idea would be to keep about 20 % of our power supply in the market and have the rest of our needs supplied through either bilateral contracts or ownership in generation. Although there is nothing to vote on at this point, we will be faced with the decision to begin building within the next year. This is a large short fall of generation out in the 2010 time frame and to be prepared for that we must begin the permit and construction process in 2007. Manager Herriott said we are on the same ground that the municipals were in the early 1970's when Seabrook was being considered

Manager Herriott opened the discussion on the replacement of the meter reading truck and the one ton dump truck. Several ideas of how the trucks might need to be constructed were discussed. Manager Herriott said he would talk to Bruce and see if we could come up with a spec for how we would like to see the new trucks bid.

Manager's expenses were reviewed and approved.

Manager Herriott gave a quick report on the lineman. Mr. Goodall has not made a commitment to date. Manager Herriott said that he seems interested but is finding it difficult to leave Groton. Manager Herriott said that he will be speaking to him in the near future and will tell him that we need a decision one way or the other.

The Hunt Meter Reading System equipment is beginning to arrive. The only piece of equipment that we have not decided on is the new server. We will be getting that done over the next couple of weeks. The hope is to use Jim Ringquest to do the meter reading

and Matt and Bruce, when needed, to deploy the meters. The biggest issue to tackle is making sure that we get the meters swapped out in a consistent manner. Manager Herriott feels that we will be looking at 6 months from the time we get the meters.

Smith Electronics has all the equipment necessary to begin the radio installation, they were to start on the February 15<sup>th</sup>, and they arrived and found that they were missing a part necessary to mount the building antenna. They have made several trips but did not bring the right parts on the day of the installation. Chairman Ainsleigh suggested that we get the portable radios which he said would cost about \$700.00 each. Manager Herriott said that he would look into it.

The Light Department was requested to put lighting up on Oakmont Drive due to public safety concerns. We were planning to do the job next week when school was out so as not to inconvenience the school. As it looks now we will not be doing anything as there are many environmental issues that need to get resolved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lashua and Seconded by Commissioner Ainsleigh to go into executive session to discuss personal issues and litigation related to the MASSPOWER suit.

A roll call vote was taken:

Commissioner	Ainsleigh	“AYE”
Commissioner	Lashua	“AYE”
Commissioner	Ahlin	“AYE”

The meeting convened into executive session at 8:27 P.M.

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:15 and a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Lashua, and seconded by Commissioner Ainsleigh. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ahlin,  
Secretary