

Minutes of March 15, 2006

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

Present Commissioners: George Ainsleigh, Richard Ahlin

Stan Herriott, Manager

Absent Kevin Lashua

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

Chairman Ainsleigh opened the meeting and moved that we suspend the approval of the Agenda, in order to accommodate our review of the end of the year audit. Present were Heather Isaacs and Jim Goulet of Goulet, Salvidio & Associates, to present their audit report. Also present was the new Town Treasurer, Anne Cervantes. Jim Goulet went over the year end audit and the management letter and reported that the while earnings were down the Light Department was in good condition. He went over the audit in greater detail then in the past so the Anne could get a better understanding of how Light Department operated. In the Management Letter Heather pointed out that we had corrected most of the concerns of the last year's letter, and the ones that were not addressed were not completely under our control. The Commissioners had a few questions and those questions were addressed. The Commissioners thanked Heather, Jim and Anne for attending. Jim mentioned that should any questions come up please feel free to call them. Jim, Heather and Anne left the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Chairman Ainsleigh called for approval of the Agenda, there was a motion by Commissioner Ahlin seconded by Commissioner Ainsleigh the vote was unanimous.

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

The Manager reviewed the budget through February 2006. Receipts were under the projections by 9% and expenses were under projected by the same level. This is mainly due to the power bill being less, approximately 15% under what was projected, due to the mild weather conditions we experienced in January and February.

Commissioner Ahlin questioned why we had a \$2,305.00 charge against the new bucket truck 65. The Manager attempted to reconcile this but was unable to find the answer at the meeting. Herriott said that he would research it and find the answer for the next meeting. There were no other questions regarding the budget. Manager Herriott went on to say that there may be a possibility of lowering the fuel charge going forward. Today oil futures are leveling off and many believe that there will be a sag in prices.

Manager Herriott also informed the Commissioners that we are now attempting to secure replacement power contracts to cover the Seabrook refueling outage which is scheduled for October 2006. He went on to explain that while Seabrook is out of service we must continue to make our payments and also pay for replacement power.

Manager Herriott opened a discussion on the purchase of new trucks. We are planning to replace the meter reading truck and the dump truck. After considerable conversation it was decided to go out for bid for a new 350 four wheel drive utility pick up with a plow to replace the meter reading truck. Then to go out for bid for a new 350 two wheel drive dump truck to replace the existing dump truck. Manager Herriott said that he would prepare the bids and also get the state bid prices.

Manager Herriott said that he had received paper work from MMWEC to change our voting representative at MMWEC. As it stands today the Manager is the voting representative for Ashburnham, with Chairman Ainsleigh being the 1st alternate and Secretary Ahlin, being the second alternate. The Commissioners decided that there would be no change necessary.

Manager Herriott brought up the fact that shutoff season is beginning, Anne sent out today over 180 letters warning customers of pending termination. This is the first of

three letters required prior to termination. Following the Department of Telecommunications and Energy guidelines there are three letters required prior to shut off, so the first shutoffs will not begin until the first of April. Manager Herriott said that this is a very stressful time of the year for Anne and she should be commended for her diligent in the collections. We are coming out of the winter being owed more money than we have ever been before, in the area of \$56,000.00.

Manager Herriott heard from our perspective lineworker Dave Goodall, who said that he was giving his notice to Groton as of the 15th of March and would be reporting to work here the first or second week of April. Manager Herriott said that he would be a good addition to the department and get us back to full staff.

Manager Herriott also mentioned that the temporary meter reader was back. Commissioner Ahlin asked if we ended up paying the unemployment insurance that Jim had filed for. Manager Herriott said that we did, although we have protested with the Mass Department of Unemployment. They denied our claim.

Manager Herriott said the new server and printer will be coming next week. Manager Herriott also said the people from Hunt and Northern data will be here to set it up. We still expect the meters to be shipped by the end of the month. As soon as all the equipment is on site we will begin changing the meters out.

Manager Herriott explained that the radios are up and running and seem to be working well. They were installed by Smith over the last two weeks. Manager Herriott reported that we exceeded the cost because we had to have additional module installed in the dispatch center because the parts that were suppose to be there were not. The bill went over the vote amount. Commissioner Ahlin felt that we needed to revisit the vote and add the additional funds. Manager Herriott also said that Commissioner Ainsleigh thought it would be best to purchase two hand held radios as well. The Commissioners voted to expend an additional \$2,500.00 to cover the cost over run of the additional parts and the purchase of two hand-held radios.

On the Oakmont Drive Lighting Manager Herriott reported that the school is working with the Ashburnham Conservation Committee regarding the tree cutting issue. The Light Department will not become involved until that issue is completely resolved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and Seconded by Commissioner Ainsleigh to go into Executive session to discuss personnel issues and litigation related to the MASSPOWER suit.

A roll call vote was taken:

Commissioner	Ainsleigh	“AYE”
Commissioner	Ahlin	“AYE”

The meeting convened into executive session at 9:20 P.M.

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:33 p.m. and a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Ahlin, and seconded by Commissioner Ainsleigh. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ahlin,
Secretary