

Minutes of May16, 2007

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

Present Commissioners: George Ainsleigh, Kevin Lashua

Stan Herriott, Manager

Richard Ahlin Absent

The Meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m.

Chairman Ainsleigh called for approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Chairman Ainsleigh and seconded by Commissioner Lashua, the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ainsleigh called for a motion to approve the Minutes of April 25, 2007. A motion was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Chairman Ainsleigh, the vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott reviewed the financials and pointed out that both receipts and expenses were running at about 3% over projections. There were no particular changes to the budget through April. Manager Herriott mentioned that we are just about done with the tree trimming until fall, because we get too many complaints when we trim in the summer. So except for some emergencies and finishing up Lashua Road we will not be doing much until the fall.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners a policy for terminating service to landlord's meters. He said that the DTE has made a request that all electric utilities have such a policy and he had written a simple policy to comply. He asked for a vote of the commissioners to approve the policy. A motion was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Chairman Ainsleigh, the vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott mentioned that there is a bill pending in the Massachusetts Senate, Titled Senate N. 1955 sponsored by Senator Morrissey. This bill would give Municipal Light Plants the ability to participate in the Massachusetts Renewable Trust, if they should so choose. However, a vote to enter into the trust is not revocable. This would have an impact on all Ashburnham Rate Payers in that each customer would have a renewable trust charge added to their bill at the present rate of .00050 per Kilo-watt hour. The cost to an average home using 500 Kilo-watts hours would be about \$.25 cents per month. The benefit to voting to get into the trust is that funds would then become available to any municipal paying into the trust for energy efficient projects, such as energy saving devices for new public buildings and schools or wind energy projects. There is, however, not any guarantee of receiving any funds. We would have to apply just as any other entity would. It has been generally agreed within the Massachusetts Municipal Electric Association and MEAM, that most people feel that this is the right thing to do. We will probably have to make this decision sometime in the fall. The MASSPOWER situation has not improved. Manager Herriott explained last month we sent a letter demanding that the unit be scheduled as a must run unit. This will cause us to incur some additional costs we will at least begin to see some energy from the project. Mr. Herriott believes that this is just the beginning of another protracted legal battle. The Manager went on to say that he will keep the Commissioners up to date on the situation.

Manager Herriott gave the commissioners various information from MMWEC which included updates on Project 2006A, Moody's Bond upgrades and the current MMWEC Highlights.

Under old business Manager Herriott brought up the fact of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The Manager proposed the following:

School Drawing Calendars: Cost of \$3.00 to \$5.00 dollars per calendar, Briggs students enter a contest to do a drawing with the theme being electricity. The school chooses the 12 winners; we give them an award of something, maybe a savings bond, take the pictures and publish a 2008 calendar. The calendars could also be sold and the money given to some organization.

In conjunction with Downtown Days: We will set up a tent for about 200 people the cost for a 40 by 80 tent is \$1,500.00, tables, chairs and lighting is an additional \$1,500.00. We will use the tent during the day for Downtown Day activities. We will ask the Boy Scouts to provide free hot dogs, chips and soda for our customers and in turn pay the Boy Scouts for their work and let them build in a profit. An evening activity would be to have a dance with a band or a DJ costing approximately \$500.00. We will ask the Lions to run a bar and have catered finger food. The other option for the event is we have a more formal event at Cushing Dinning Hall. This is less risky as far as weather and probably less costly.

A.M.L.P. should invite our local officials and political people. Manager Herriott would expect that all serving and former employees and their guests be invited and recognized and given jackets or something like that.

Budget:	Calendars	\$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00
	Awards	\$1,000.00
	Tent	\$3,000.00 to \$3,500.00
	100 <sup>th</sup> Anv Jackets	\$700.00
	Invitations	\$200.00
	Food	\$2,000.00 -\$6,000.00
	Police Details	\$700.00
	Port-a-Jon	\$400.00
	Misc.	\$1,100.00 - \$1,450.00 Based on 10%
	Total Est.	\$12,100.00 - \$15,950.00

The Downtown Lighting is still progressing. We have a plan from the phone company to do the project in 3 phases and we are waiting the cost associated with the project. The first phase will be to put the wiring for the Town Hall underground. The phone company work will require a full size manhole to be placed in the street at the northerly driveway of the Town Hall and conduit runs to be made up in the street to the various buildings. We hope to begin working on this by midsummer. Commissioner Lashua suggested that

we get some publicity for this project so that people will know what we are doing for the town. Manager Herriott said that he would like to get an artist to do a drawing of how the downtown area might look with the poles and wires removed. Commissioner Lashua suggested a couple of names. Manager Herriott said he would contact the people and see if they could help.

The Northern Data computer system upgrade is scheduled for the end of July, with this upgrade we will be able to start to use the reduced mailing costs. As well as getting on the most current version of the software.

Manager Herriott gave an update on Dave Goodall's situation, he had just seen the doctor on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May and was scheduled for another appointment in 6 weeks. His progress has been good but we do not expect him to return to work for at least another 6 weeks. At this point in the meeting there were some heavy thunder storms coming through the area and due to outage calls the meeting was brought to an informal close as the Manager began to deal with the problems brought on by the storm. The Manager and Chairman left the building to begin to patrol the lines prior to the line crews responding.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ahlin

Secretary

