

Minutes of April 25, 2007
Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant
Present Commissioners: George Ainsleigh, Richard Ahlin, Kevin Lashua
Stan Herriott, Manager

The Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

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

Chairman Ainsleigh called for a motion to approve the Minutes of March 28, 2007. A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua, the vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott said the new DPW director Don Ouellette P.E. was to be here to discuss the Light Department's contribution towards a mowing tractor, but would be late. The Manager suggested that we move on with the agenda until he arrives.

Manager Herriott informed the Commissioners that we have had a very active shutoff season to date. Presently we have 23 homes shut off, many for over two weeks. This is quite unusual in a small town to have this many homes that people have abandoned. He went on to explain that we are doing everything we can to collect all past due accounts.

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 March.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners information collected by the APPA, on contributions by Light Departments to cities and towns in lieu of taxes for their review. Manager Herriott also went over the RMR settlement with FERC for the Western Mass Municipals. This settlement with FERC and the ISO will result in Ashburnham receiving a \$60,000.00 credit to our June bill and a further reduction of about \$40,000.00 on our monthly power bills going forward.

Manager Herriott mentioned that we were running a light bulb replacement program in honor of Earth Day. We were asking customers to bring in one incandescent light bulb and receive two energy start lamps to replace them.

Don Ouellette P.E. arrived at the meeting and Chairman recognized him. He brought the Commissioners a proposal that the Town and the Light Plant share the cost of the new mower tractor to clear the sides of the road way. The total cost of the tractor would be \$140,000.00 of which the Light Plant's share would be \$ 70,000.00. The tractor would be operated and maintained by the Highway Department, and could be expected to run 12 to 20 weeks annually. The Commissioners asked several questions. They wanted some assurance that the tractor would not just sit idle, to spend that much on a piece of equipment and not use it would be of no value to the townspeople. Don assured them that it would be run. They also asked about the operator, they felt and Don agreed that a piece of equipment like that needed to have one or two skilled operators, to insure the equipment was used properly. There was also some discussion on the quality of the mowing. Don felt that after the first mowing cycle each additional mowing would improve the look of the road side. There were several other discussion items, and then the Commissioners advised Don that they would have further discussion and would let him know as soon as possible if the Light Department would contribute toward the tractor.

After Don left the Commissioners had further discussions, Commissioner Lashua felt that because he works for the Town it would not be appropriate for him to vote on the funding

of the tractor. He said that he would abstain from the vote. A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin for an amount of money not to exceed \$70,000.00 towards the purchase of a four wheel drive tractor equipped with brush mower, balance to be funded by the Town of Ashburnham and the transaction to be completed by December 31, 2007. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ainsleigh. The vote was unanimous. The Commissioners instructed the Manager to inform the DPW Director as soon as possible. He said he would call him in the morning.

The Manager held brief discussions on the following items:

100th Anniversary: He would try to do up a proposed schedule for the next Board meeting:

Downtown lighting: The plans are still not ready to be presented to the Town yet. We are waiting on the Telephone Company.

Manager Herriott reported that Dave Goodall has had his surgery and was recovering and attending physical therapy. Manager Herriott said he still did not expect him back until June.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Chairman Ainsleigh to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ahlin

Secretary

