

Minutes of September 19, 2007

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

Present Commissioners: George Ainsleigh, and Richard Ahlin

Stan Herriott, Manager

Absent Kevin Lashua

The Meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

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

Chairman Ainsleigh called for a motion to approve the minutes of June 28, 2007. A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Chairman Ainsleigh. The vote was unanimous. Secretary Ahlin signed the Minutes of the June 28th Meeting.

Manager Herriott reviewed the financials and pointed out that receipts are tracking about 5% more than projections while expenses continue to track about 3% over projections. There were no particular changes to the budget that would require adjusting the budget for the month or year. Cash receipts remain stable and the number of shuts-offs have slowed. We still have over 20 properties shutoff for greater than three weeks. We will eventually collect these monies as the banks and mortgage companies take them over.

Manager Herriott gave to the Commissioners a copy of the 2006 Audit letter which was done by Goulet, Salvidio & Assoc. accounting firm. He reviewed with the Commissioners item by item in the letter and explained that some things can be fixed. Due to our size; however, there are things that do not make sense to fix. Manager

Herriott said that he would be working to get these things fixed through the winter months, and would report back.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners a memo from the Selectmen granting special employment status to Commissioners so they could perform work for the Town Departments and charge for their services. The memo explained that they could not work directly for the Town Department they provided oversight of.

Manager Herriott reviewed the status on the Berkshire Wind Project. He explained that the Municipals which have been involved in the project from the beginning had done several prospectuses on the project and based on the results they have voted to begin negotiating a buyout for the project from Berkshire Wind. The cost to complete the project is expected to be in the 47 million dollar range. There are a couple of issues, first is the buyout of the original developer which we believe will not be too contentious. Second is the legal issues we have with a couple of land owners in the area. We believe one issue will not be a problem however, the other issues with Silver Leaf is in court and will need to get resolved. We are working with them to try to site the upper towers so the issues they have will be resolved and will not have to go through the court system. At this point the project is well received by the surrounding towns and is supported by the Governor and the Energy Secretary of Massachusetts. We believe that we can count on a great deal of support from the state to get this accomplished. He went on to explain to the Commissioners that we will be establishing a CO-OP between the participants in order to get this project financed and at some point the Commissioners will be required to vote to go forward with the project.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners a chart completed by MMWEC showing our present power portfolio mix.

Manager Herriott presented his expenses for approval by the Board for July through September. They were approved.

Manager Herriott went over the two Bills pending in the Senate. Bill 1956 is a bill to create another layer of government to oversee the utilities. Public Power in Massachusetts opposed this however the issue appears to be on the way to approval as it has the backing of FERC. This Bill will create a government body with membership from all New England states and most of the cost would be borne by the rate payers. Bill 1955 if passed would allow Municipal Electric Systems to opt into the Massachusetts Renewable Trust, by the vote of their Boards. If voted in the affirmative we would begin to bill our customers and send the money to the Trust. This would allow us the opportunity to apply for funds for renewable projects, but with no guarantee, that we would get them. Also this is an irrevocable decision. The Commissioners took these things under advisement.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners a copy of the commercial rate comparisons for the month of June. Ashburnham's standing remains in the lower third for commercial rates in the state among Municipals and Investor owned utilities.

Manager Herriott told the Commissioners that we had shut off the Victorian Stables and were working with them to get payment and turn the service back on. We expect to resolve these issues soon.

Manager Herriott gave the commissioners information on the CO-OP MMWEC had established with Princeton to fund their wind project, as well as a copy of the MMWEC Board resolution regarding climate change.

The 100 Anniversary was discussed. Manager Herriott told the Commissioners that Anne was working with Brigg's art teacher to create a calendar, which the Light Department would fund and Briggs could sell for a fund raiser.

Manager Herriott reported that the downtown project was well on its way. The overhead portion is up and the linemen are working to complete it. We have had only one issue with a customer involving some trees that we cut that Manager Herriott had promised not

to cut. We are working with her on that. We will be putting the telephone vault in the street in October and the underground for the Town Hall.

Manager Herriott reported that Dave Goodall was back to work on a part time basis and is expected to be back to full duty by the end of October.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and Seconded by Commissioner Ainsleigh to go into Executive session at 6:10 p.m. to discuss litigation related to MASSPOWER. The session would only reconvene in open session to adjourn.

A roll call vote was taken:

Commissioner	Ainsleigh	“AYE”
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Commissioner	Ahlin	“AYE”
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The meeting re-convened into open session at 6:25 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ahlin

Secretary