

Minutes of May 21, 2008

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. The motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Ainsleigh. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ainsleigh recognized one of our customers, Mr. Alan Bergeron who was in attendance. Manager Herriott said that Mr. Bergeron was in attendance to dispute a bill that he had sent the Light Department for clean up of a tree that we left on his property during a winter storm. The tree had fallen from his neighbor's yard across the road and on the wires. The line crew arrived, cut the tree off and put some branches on Mr. Bergeron's property and told him they would return and retrieve them. Mr. Bergeron was tired of waiting and cleaned it up and sent us a bill for \$200.00 which the Manager refused to pay. He requested that he be given an opportunity to present his case to the Commissioners, and Manager Herriott put him on the agenda. Mr. Bergeron told the Commissioners what he had done. The Commissioners inquired why he did not call and remind the Light Department to do the clean up. He said he did not think he had to do our job for us. The Commissioners response was if he had given us a call the Light Department would have responded and he would not have had to do the work. The Commissioners felt this was poor judgment on the part of Mr. Bergeron and voted not to pay the bill. The motion was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Commissioner Ainsleigh. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Bergeron left the meeting.

The Chairman recognized our second visitor at the meeting, Mr. Steve Kropper, who asked to be placed on the agenda to discuss the Board's feeling on installation of

wind turbines. He asked if any interest in wind had been discussed. Manager Herriott gave him an over view of Ashburnham's investigations into the use of wind power. Mr. Kropper stated he was looking at placing wind generation in several areas and talked of working with the town. He went on to say that the type of units he was looking at were mid size units available in the after market. After some discussion it seemed to be the general opinion that we would likely work with him if the occasion should arise. Mr. Kropper left the meeting and thanked the Commissioners for this opportunity to address the Board. The meeting went on with the general business scheduled on the agenda. Chairman Ainsleigh called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 16th 2008 meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous. Secretary Ahlin signed the Minutes of the April 16th 2008 meeting.

Manager Herriott reviewed the budget through April both receipts and expenses are running about 3% over projections. One of the reasons the expenses are running over is the early purchase of additional poles. Expenses are expected to settle down as we move into the next several months. Collections have increased since the winter moratorium has been lifted and we continue to press customers hard to get the monies owed. We have also seen an increase in collections for homes that have been abandoned they are now being paid by the bank or the real estate company.

Manager Herriott submitted his expenses for the month which were approved. The expenses were \$96.95 this was for promotional items for the 100th Anniversary.

Manager Herriott told the Commissioners the employees had asked again for two additional items in the benefit requests; they wanted an additional 4% raise in the second year and that double time on Sundays be reinstated. They also said that they were willing to give up the additional clothing they had requested earlier. The Commissioners agreed to take the 4% general increase under consideration and asked the Manager to provide additional information. The Commissioners also agreed to allow the Manager to send a letter request that the Selectman consider supporting post retirement healthcare. (See attached)

They did not agree to restoring double time on Sundays. They felt the language we agreed to in the 2006 benefits request which was: Eliminate double time on Sundays

between the hours of 7 am and midnight. Unless an employee works 3 full hours on a Saturday preceding that Sunday. (Accepted) should stand.

They did agree to Manager Herriott's plan to bring Matt up to first class pay if he is considered ready to begin taking standby for July 1, 2008 and to bring Dave up to full second class pay at the same time because he has now completed his second class school. No other items were considered at this time.

The Manager told the Commissioners that Dave Goodall had completed his second class school and had done very well in his training. He went on to say that Dave is progressing very well in his daily activities.

Under old Business: The Manager reported that the Downtown Celebration Day was still moving forward and that things seemed to be falling into place.

The Manager reported that the telephone company had approached him about doing the duck bank for them. He was asked to come up with some kind of split between the phone company and the Light Department. Manager Herriott said that he would work with a local contractor to come up with an estimate on doing the project and try to come to an agreement with the telephone company.

The Manager gave the Commissioners his draft letter to the Selectman on post retirement healthcare for the second time. They agreed to allow him to send the letter to the Selectman.

He also presented the Commissioners with a letter addressing the in lieu of-tax payment, which after some discussion the Commissioners decided to table this letter

The Manager also shared with the Commissioners some general correspondence with regard to the MASSPOWER CASE.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ahlin

Secretary