

Minutes of January 8, 2009 Special Meeting
Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant
Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, George Ainsleigh and Kevin Lashua
Stan Herriott, Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

There was no December 2008 meeting because of the recovery effort due to the ice storm that began on December 12th. The reason for the January 8th 2009 Special meeting was to replace the December 2008 meeting.

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

Commissioner Ahlin made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 19th 2008 meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous. Secretary Ahlin signed the Minutes of the November 19th, 2008 meeting.

Manager Herriott reviewed the budget through November. Receipts are tracking about 1.5% over projections while expenses are running about 4% over projections.

Manager Herriott presented the Capital Budget for 2009 for a vote. The projected budget is \$4,941,789.00 with receipts expected to be \$4,969,711. This is a very tight budget and will require a rate increase in July of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent (.0075), after some discussion Commissioner Ahlin made a motion to adopt the 2009 budget and it was seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott gave a brief review of the storm restoration efforts and the cost associated with them. Manager Herriott said that the cost projections were as he had predicted, it would total out at about \$350,000.00 to \$400,000.00. He also said that we would be picking up the pieces of the electrical system until mid summer; there were still many poles to set and lines down to camps. This storm restoration work will pretty

much stop the work on the Downtown project, and work on that will resume in the Fall 2009. Also, the Central Mass Managers will be meeting next week to go over how the best way to get reimbursement from FEMA and the State for storm restoration.

Manager Herriott opened the discussion on joining the Massachusetts Tech. Collaborative. He wanted to get an idea of how the Commissioners would vote because there is a requirement that we get a legal opinion done to ensure that the Commissioners have the authority to vote to commit the town to this trust. Manager Herriott said that since the Board was elected he felt it was the general opinion of other Managers that they did indeed have the authority. The Commissioners felt comfortable with making the following motion: to enter into the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative with the stipulation the Ashburnham Municipal Light Board has the authority to enter said agreement. The motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners an example of an employment agreement which he had done for himself. He stated that it is a requirement of Chapter 164 of the MASS General Laws that Light Department Managers have a contract. This was only an attempt to meet the requirement. The Commissioners said they would take it under advisement.

Manager Herriott told the Commissioners of the problems that were encountered with installing the new street light fixtures. Manager Herriott had complained to Halophane and they did reimburse us for our labor cost. We received a check for \$1,038.00 dollars.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners copies of several MMWEC documents, which consisted of: (1) CEO MMWEC 2008 Year in Review: (2) News release of the S&P Bond upgrade.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners copies of the latest MASSPOWER documents from the attorneys.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioner copies of the latest Berkshire Wind Project documents, which included projected cost and a brief overview of the construction schedule.

Commissioner Lashua asked about the solar project. Manager Herriott said that the company that installed them would be out next Wednesday the 14th to inspect and turn on the system, after that it would continue in operation. Manager Herriott invited the Commissioners to attend. Manager Herriott also said that we would be receiving renewable energy credits for the project.

Manager Herriott also had two requests for bill inserts. The first was a letter from the Electrical Inspector informing people that suffered damage to their electrical service that they must take steps to ensure the proper repairs are made by midyear. The second was a notice of a fund raiser for the Ashburnham Westminster Teachers Association for Senior Scholarship fund. The Commissioner gave an OK to both documents.

Chairman Ainsleigh made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ahlin; a roll call vote was taken.

Commissioner Ainsleigh “AYE”

Commissioner Ahlin “AYE”

Commissioner Lashua “AYE”

Executive session began at 8:08 p.m. Executive session ended at 8:28 p.m.

Upon exiting Executive session the following motion was made: A motion to compensate the AMLP Manager above his annual salary by the amount of \$10,000.00 for services rendered during and after the ice storm of December 2008. The motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous. The formula that was used was \$65.00 per hour x 152 hours and the dollars were rounded up to \$10,000.00.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ahlin

Secretary