

Minutes of September 16, 2009

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Kevin Lashua

Stan Herriott Manager

Absent due to sickness: George Ainsleigh

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Commissioner Ahlin asked for a motion to accept the Minutes of the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua, the vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott reviewed the budget through June 2009, he pointed out that since we have seen lower power costs we were able to postpone a rate increase. If this continues we should be able to hold the price until next summer. Commissioner Ahlin asked about the building expense. Manager Herriott said he was not sure why we were over projections but he would check into it and get back to him. Commissioner Ahlin asked how we were doing with the Select Contract Monies. Manager Herriott said they are projected to last until mid 2010 because of lower wholesale prices for energy that we are now experiencing. Presently we are right on track with revenue projections and are running about 4% under budget for expenses for the year. The budget is tracking very close to projections with total revenue at \$3,346,591 and expenses at \$3,096,859 through August.

Manager Herriott gave an update on the Berkshire Wind Project. While the construction is progressing well we are in a legal battle with one of the property owners over the land taking. At this point we have agreed with the Judge's request to continue to negotiate until October 1, and then go back before the Judge. The best case is if the Judge finds in our favor we continue to construct, the worst case being the Judge issues

an injunction and we have to stop working and restart in the spring, this will add considerable cost to the project.

Manager Herriott gave Commissioner Ahlin updates on the Stony Brook Project. We are finalizing the joint owners agreement with CEMEC and we are targeted to go out to bid in the summer of 2010. We are still having problems with the few municipals that would not like to see the project built, and in Manager Herriott's opinion will result in a protracted law suit once the project is underway.

Manager Herriott introduced the new policy to the Commissioners governing landlord and tenant responsibilities with regard to any past due electrical charges. The basic policy will require the tenant to pay a 3 month deposit or have a letter from the landlord guaranteeing payment. Also if the tenant skips out on the bill, the responsibility will fall to the owner. Manager Herriott said that he will have the changes ready for the next meeting.

Manager Herriott said we are almost ready to begin taking online payments for customers through the Uni-Bank Program. This costs the consumer nothing for an ACH transaction and if the consumer wants to use a credit card then there is a service fee they must pay. This is consistent with the DPU ruling that they do not want to see the cost of credit card use socialized over the entire customer base.

Manager Herriott mentioned that we are waiting on the layout of the Public Safety Building and Oakmont solar projects. Manager Herriott hopes to have them for the next meeting if not before. They will have to be presented to the Selectmen for their approval. We hope to get fifty percent reimbursement for the MTC for both these projects.

A discussion was held on the building projects started in town there are four subdivisions started, the largest of which will be Mark Dymeck's condo project on Williams Road. Manager Herriott said there would be monies in the budget to upgrade the Hunt system to a two way system next year. This would allow us to gradually install meters that would allow us to disconnect and reconnect from the office.

Manager Herriott presented his expenses for the month of June which totaled \$86.96. They were approved.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ahlin,  
Secretary