

Minutes of February 18, 2009

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, George Ainsleigh

Stan Herriott Manager

Absent Kevin Lashua

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

There was no Light Board Meeting held in December 2008 due to the ice storm that began December 12<sup>th</sup> and full time repair work continued until December 24<sup>th</sup>. There was no Light Board Meeting held in January 2009 due to lack of quorum.

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 19, 2008 meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Ainsleigh. The vote was unanimous. Secretary Ahlin signed the Minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting.

Manager Herriott reviewed the budget through January 2009. Receipts are tracking about 1% under projections while expenses are running under what they were projected.

Projected Receipts	\$450,625	Projected Expense	\$461,243
Actual Receipts	<u>\$436,963</u>	Actual Expense	<u>\$415,569</u>
Difference	\$13,662	Difference	\$45,674

According to the sales data, sales exceeded expense by about \$44,000.00; however we are experiencing a great deal of difficulty in collections so the actual cash collected is down. We anticipate a very active shut off season beginning in April. As of February 19<sup>th</sup> 2009 the outstanding arrears is \$75,597.00.

The town Tax Collector has done an evaluation on what he feels is a fair market value of the property we have and what we currently pay in lieu of taxes to the town.

There was some discussion held on the topic but no decision was reached with regard to additional payments.

Manager Herriott said that he had prepared a letter to be emailed to the out of town departments and other larger customers informing them of the pending increase in rates in July. The letter will be emailed out and a follow up will be necessary. Manager Herriott said that the one cent increase in the worst case scenario and every effort would be made to keep the cost down.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners a copy of the insert the Lions Club and the Conservation Trust would like to put in the March bills. The Commissioners agreed that that would be fine. Manager Herriott will notify the groups of the decision.

Manager Herriott gave copies to the Commissioners copies of several documents produced by the Town Manager and the Water and Sewer Commission.

Manager Herriott Expenses were approved for 221.56 for the month of February.

Under old business from scheduled January 8, meeting Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners copies of the January through December 2008 budget, which showed the following:

Projected Receipts	\$4,667,686	Projected Expense	\$4,594,979
Actual Receipts	<u>\$4,707,758</u>	Actual Expense	<u>\$4,781,121</u>
Difference	\$40,072	Difference	\$186,142

Manager Herriott gave a brief discussion on the contract he had signed with R.W. Beck to assist the department with filing the FEMA paper work in order to secure the 75% reimbursement. Manager Herriott said there initially seemed to be a slight rub between BECK and FEMA but that seemed to be getting worked out. He went on to say that he hoped at next Friday's meeting that these things would be resolved and the first round of paper work would be completed.

The Manager said he had received a letter from Sheryl Hulechi on Pillsbury Road in Ashburnham telling us that she lived in Ashburnham and she was served by Unitil. She felt that since she lived in town she should be served by Ashburnham Municipal Light. Manager Herriott said that he wrote a letter to Unitil asking for their opinion on this switch. Their response was that they had no problem and Manager Herriott should work

out any switch with the local Manager. Manager Herriott said that he would pursue it in the spring.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners a copy of the report submitted to the Town for 2008 for their review.

Manager Herriott said that he would be going on vacation from February 21, through February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Manager Herriott expenses were approved for \$179.27 for the month of January.

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”

Executive Session began at 7:45 p.m. Executive Session ended at 8:00 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ahlin

Secretary