

## Minutes of June 16, 2010

### Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

Present Commissioners: Mark Carlisle, Richard Ahlin and Kevin Lashua

Stan Herriott Manager

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

The Minutes of May 19th and April 21, 2010 were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua for approval of the April 21, 2010 Minutes with Commissioner Carlisle abstained due to the fact he had not been elected yet. A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Carlisle to approve the Minutes of May 19, 2010. The vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott reviewed the budget through May 2010. Receipts are tracking 3.5% above projections with expenses tracking about 1 ½ % below projections. Receipts to date are \$2,115,037 and expenses were \$1,945,515.

Manager Herriott opened the discussion on employees benefit requests. Manager Herriott said that he was in receipt of an opinion from our attorney. It was clear that we could not offer additional healthcare (i.e. post retirement healthcare) to Light Department employees until the town voted to offer it to all town employees. Manager Herriott said that he did not think the town would address this issue anytime soon. The town is however considering moving to the state healthcare system but there is no word just when this might happen.

The Commissioners addressed the wage requests after some discussion of the economic conditions they felt that 2.5% wage increase was reasonable. Manager Herriott stated that each percentage point added about \$5,000.00 to the overall payroll expense annually. After further discussion Commissioner Carlisle made a motion to increase the

wages by 2.5% for July 2010-2011 and 2.5% from July 2011-2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott gave the vacation policy to the Commissioners that he had submitted in draft format at the last meeting. A discussion was held on the policy and the Commissioners felt that the policy was too generous and not in line with current industry standards. The areas of concern were two weeks vacation after 6 months and six weeks after 25 years. The Commissioners voted to make the following changes and directed Manager Herriott to prepare a policy that reflected the changes. New employees will receive two weeks vacation after one year instead of 6 months, and vacation for new employees would be limited to 5 weeks maximum. Manager Herriott said he would rewrite the policy to reflect these changes.

Manager Herriott presented his expenses for the last month. A total of \$110.71 was approved.

The Commissioners had a discussion on electing officers. After some discussion a motion by Commissioner Carlisle to have the secretary cast a vote for the slate of officers as follows; Chairman Commissioner Ahlin, Secretary Commissioner Carlisle and member at large Commissioner Lashua. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lashua and the vote was cast electing the slate of officers.

The summer meeting schedule (July and Aug) was discussed and it was agreed that we would meet as necessary, with Manager Herriott making postings as required.

Manager Herriott stated that the current job applications will be received until June 18, 2010. At that time we will review and select the people we would like to interview.

Manager Herriott said there has not been settlement in the Berkshire Wind Project, although it is his understanding that settlement is at hand.

A discussion on how we would like to see a deal structured with First Wind. Manager Herriott presented a couple of thoughts and the ideas were discussed. Manager Herriott said that he would contact First Wind and discuss these concepts and let the Commissioners know what their response was. Manager Herriott also said that he would contact Solaya a division of Lumas Construction to discuss the same concepts.

Manager Herriott said that we had ordered the solar equipment (panels and inverters and related items) delivery is expected to take about 4 weeks.

Manager Herriott said the closing arguments of the MASSPOWER case is scheduled for July. There was not other discussion on this issue.

There was no executive session needed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Richard Ahlin,  
Secretary