

Minutes of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Mark Carlisle and Kevin Lashua

Stan Herriott Manager

Other Attendees: David Colombo Consulting Engineers

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

Chairman Ahlin opened the meeting by recognizing Mr. Colombo. Mr. Colombo began by conducting a review of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant “Distributed Generation (DG) Projects impact Study for Distribution Interconnection”. Mr. Colombo explained that the study was based on insuring that we maintained the stability of the Ashburnham Distribution System. He paid particular attention to any circumstances that might cause any voltage variance that would in turn cause customers lights to blink as the renewable projects came on or off line. His recommendation is based on making the necessary improvements recommended in the system study. He believes we could safely add the proposed wind project at 3.2 MW’s and a 2 MW system on the W-2 circuit, with the potential of adding 1 MW solar on the W-4. There is a possibility of increasing the 1 MW to 2 MW’s providing the location of the equipment interconnection is close enough to the substation. The Commissioners asked several questions regarding the study and a discussion was held covering those questions. Mr. Colombo thanked the Commissioners and left the meeting at approximately 3:45 p.m.

After Mr. Colombo left the Commissioners and Manager Herriott discussed a strategy on how to move this project forward. It was agreed that a good approach would be to make the wind project an MMWEC project and work with other Municipal Electric Systems to divide the capacity of the project. We would then seek a separate Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with individual solar providers. Manager Herriott agreed to send a letter to MMWEC formally requesting that the MMWEC Board consider forming an MMWEC special project to solicit participation from other Municipal Electric Systems. As far as the solar, the Light Department

would seek to sign a PPA with whatever solar provider produces a viable project at the least cost per Kwh.

Chairman Ahlin reviewed the Minutes from the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott reviewed the January budget with the Commissioners as well as the current cash position of the department. He asked if the Commissioners felt that they would still like to get the budget electronically. They agreed they would. Manager Herriott said he would continue to send them.

Manager Herriott introduced the Flow Design Wind Project. They would like to set up a deal with Mr. Van Hoof to put the turbine on his property. Manager Herriott stated that it seemed that on the outside the cost is nothing to the department. The Commissioners agreed but would like some further details. Manager Herriott agreed that he would get the answers from Flow Design. Flow Design asked Manager Herriott if he would make the introduction to Mr. Van Hoof, which he had agreed to do.

Manager Herriott explained how the new remote disconnect device that the Light Department has would be used. Manager Herriott stated that he had written a policy to cover the installation of this device. The Commissioners reviewed the Policy 2.0014 and made some changes to the wording; the policy will be voted on at the next meeting in March.

Manager Herriott said that working through MMWEC we have been able to sell about \$8,000.00 worth of SRES's from the power generated for the Light Department's original solar system. He suggested that we apply that \$8,000.00 when received to the Public Safety Building account, as they are running short. Then when we receive the monies for the sale of their SREC's we could replenish our funds. The Commissioners agreed to go forward with this plan.

Manager Herriott presented his expenses for the month which were approved for \$24.99.

Manager Herriott reported the AXIO Company was actively pursuing land contracts with several people here in Ashburnham to install solar arrays. Manager Herriott said, that he has given AXIO the names of all the interested parties, AXIO seems to be focusing on the

Bingham's property on Old County Road at this time. Manager Herriott said that he would keep the Commissioners informed on the progress.

Manager Herriott reported on the Berkshire Wind project. The project is complete and ready to begin pre-commercial testing. The only thing that is holding it up is Verizon installing direct telephone lines to some of Western Mass Electric sub-stations to allow for trip signals to be sent to those stations. The commercial operations date has been moved to April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Commissioner Lashua left the meeting @ 4:20 p.m.

Manager Herriott discussed with the Commissioners the following communications:

- Letter from the Collectors Office to Mr. Adams
- Letter to Mr. Briggs regard insurance coverage, The Commissioners requested Manager Herriott to request that a MIIA representative come to a Board meeting to review the coverage.
- Letter from Senator Brewer
- Cost Charts from MMWEC concerning rate for return for Transmission Companies and expected increases in the cost of Transmission service
- Letter announcing the MMWEC annual Meeting

There was no Executive session held.

The next meeting is to be held Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 24 Williams Road.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Carlisle

Secretary