

Minutes of June 20, 2012

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin & Mark Carlisle

Stan Herriott, Manager

Absent: Kevin Lashua

Others Present: Reporter from the Fitchburg Sentinel

Chairman Ahlin opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

There were no customer or citizen comments.

Chairman Ahlin asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 16, 2012 meeting. Manager Herriott said there was a problem with the votes that were taken at the May 16, meeting. Commissioner Lashua voted on and made motions and he had not been sworn in by the Town Clerk. Chairman Ahlin decided to suspend voting on both the Regular Session Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Manager Herriott stated he did not mail the budget information prior to the meeting. Manager Herriott did include copies in the meeting package for the Commissioners to review. Manager Herriott went on to say the receipts are running about 2% under projections and the expenses are

running about 5% under projections. Manager Herriott explained the reason for the expenses running below the projection is lower power bills. Manager Herriott also pointed out that the Berkshire Wind costs are running over what the projections were for the year.

May Receipts:	\$406,822.00
May Expenses:	\$399,435.00
YTD Receipts	\$2,067,954.00
YTD Expenses	\$1,884,607.00

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners the balances in the accounts held by AMLP and MMWEC.

Manager Herriott informed the Commissioners he had entered into negotiations with Verizon along with a couple of other municipalities, to increase our fees in the joint ownership agreement. If this is successful we should more than double the fees we now collect through our joint agreement. We expect that to be completed within a month or two.

Manager Herriott had no expenses for the month of May.

The next regular scheduled meeting is set for the 19th of September the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M.

Manager Herriott stated that we had completed the process of bringing our new employee on board, Jeffrey Schrecke, so far he is fitting in well. We were lucky that NGRID line worker training school is starting up next Monday and we were able to get Jeff enrolled. He will be in the school for the next 6 weeks. The school will cost in the area of \$10,000.00 for the pole climbing, apprentice and hydraulic training.

Regarding other issues Manager Herriott reported that we have not made much progress with getting Verizon motivated on work in the Downtown area. They have finished the underground work and have a couple of days working on the overhead but have made very little progress.

Manager Herriott stated that he will continue to urge Verizon to continue with their progress but it is not likely to change the outcome. Verizon seems to work at their own pace.

With regard to the Library and the solar installation, Manager Herriott had explained to the Librarian that the Commissioners would not consider the project until they had the support from the Historical Commission. The Commissioners feel strongly that this is a very historic building and everybody must be on board before anything is done. Manager Herriott said he would keep the Commissioner's informed of the progress.

Manager Herriott stated that representatives from MMWEC were planning to come out in July to go review the new HELPS agreement. Manager Herriott said he did not think it was urgent that we get this done so we would postpone it until the September meeting.

Manager Herriott stated that he had forwarded to the Commissioners the latest operating agreement with FLO Design. The Commissioners agreed that it would be good to have the FLO Design people back to get a clear update of just where the wind project stands. They feel that this is a good project for Ashburnham and are eager in seeing it through.

Manager Herriott reported that he received the refund check from NIGHTHAWK. Manager Herriott felt that this was a good company that just introduced their product a little too soon. They did keep their word and made the refund. Manager Herriott also said they are willing to give us the product back once the upgrades are completed and try again.

Chairman Ahlin asked for a motion to move the meeting into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and trade secrets related to power supply contracts and would only exit Executive Session to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle. A roll call vote was taken:

Chairman Ahlin (AYE)

Commissioner Carlisle (AYE)

The Commissioners entered into Executive Session at 8:05 P.M.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:45 P.M.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Carlisle

Secretary