

Open Session Minutes of September 18th, 2013

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Mark Carlisle, Kevin Lashua, & Stan Herriott Manager

Chairman Ahlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Customer of Citizen Comments: None

Chairman Ahlin called for a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes from June 26th, 2013. A motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ahlin called for a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes from the Special Meeting of July 24th, 2013. A motion was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Commissioner Carlisle. The vote was unanimous.

Massager Herriott address the Commissioners on the situation of the Power Line Carrier meter system. He began by saying that after about a year of struggling with Landis & Gyr to fine he problem with the auto read system, they finally admitted to the fact the reading failures were linked to a component failure, however, as the same time they also delivered the news that they would no longer support the hardware after March 30, 2014. Herriott went on to say that there are 2 options, one to gravitate towards the new Landis & Gyr PLEX system which is a real time two way power line carrier system, or go to a radio system. The PLEX system has some advantages in that we can: Use the same billing Software that is already integrated with our billing system, We can gradually transmission over to the two way system as the new substation

reader will read both TS1 And the new PLEX meters, Landis & Gyr is willing to give us the new substation equipment required to operate the two system, and they are also willing to give us a reduced cost on TS1 meters to keep the system going until we get the new system installed. The new PLEX meters come preprogramed and can include remote shut off.

The radio frequency system will do all the functions of the PLEX system, as well as allow for programing from the office. The problem lies in the fact that you must, build out the entire mesh radio system prior to deploying one meter, you would have to operate a duel system for several months while you switched systems. Herriott felt the PLEX system advantage out way the additional functions of the Radio and total installation cost is slightly less.

Receipts and Expenses

Receipts through May \$3,496,503.00

Expenses through May \$3,297,963.00

Manager Herriott said that the budget was running as expected.

The vacation policy the Commissioner had discussed at previous meetings and the Manger asked for a vote to approve the policy. This policy needed to reflect that we had been giving additional days per year at the first of the year rather than at the end of the year. The error between practice and policy was discovered in last year's audit. The new policy corrects this difference.

The Chairman called for a motion, it was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Commissioner Carlisle, and the vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott has sought out costs to do an actuary study of Post retirement Healthcare costs sense the Town has voted in post-retirement costs at the spring meeting. The quote I got was to do the entire Town employee base and was \$5,750.00. The Commissioners had asked the Manager to see what the cost would be just to do the Light Department 3,500.00. The Commissioners feel that sense the Light Department was an actively pursuing Post-Retirement Healthcare that it would be in the best interest of the Light Department and the Town to move forward and do the complete study. After some discussion the Commissioners directed the Manger to notify the Town.

Manager Herriott expenses were 708.31 and were many the costs associated with attending the New England Public Power Association annual meeting. The expense was approved.

Manager Herriott mentioned that he had received two new Town policies governing Expense reimbursement, and payroll. Manager Herriott found it strange that the policies came from the Town Account and not the Board of Selectman. There was some discussion on the topic.

Manager Herriott reported that the pole replacement project all the poles had been set, AMLP crews were working on the transfers.

FLO-Design Wind project has been postponed indefinitely. In late August Bob Patten came to a meeting at the Light Department. He stated that the Board of FLO-Design did a review of the Ashburnham project and had decided not to move forward. This decision was based on the fact that the return did not meet their financial model.

The Solar project is well under way, the land has been cleared and leveled. They are waiting on the racking style decision and they will begin driving the support posts. There is a meeting with the wire inspector and the engineer at the Light Department Thursday morning to go over any concerns he might have with the project.

Chairman Ahlin asked for a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes for the July 24th meeting. There was no discussion only a vote. Commissioner Lashua moved the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Carlisle. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Ahlin. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Carlisle
Secretary