

Open Session Minutes of November 20, 2013

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board

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

Absent Kevin Lashua

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

Customer or Citizen Comments: None

Chairman Ahlin called for a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes from October 16, 2013. A motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Chairman Ahlin. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ahlin opened with a discussion about the budget for 2014. There were several items discussed which included a possible rate increase in July of 2014 and capital projects for 2014 including replacing the town streetlights with LED lights. Further discussion and voting on the 2014 budget will be held at the December meeting. The other capital item discussed was the replacement of the existing digger derrick which will be 13 years old in 2014.

Receipts through October \$ 4,325,875.00

Expenses through October \$ 4,086,560.00

Manager Herriott stated the budget was running as expected.

Managers Expenses: None

Added to the Agenda was the announcement of Don Bisbee's retirement. Don has said he will retire on February 1 , 2014. A discussion was held to decide whether we should advertise for a qualified 1<sup>st</sup> class line worker or an apprentice. After some discussion it was decided to make an attempt at finding a first class lineman. Manager Herriott will update the job advertisement and get it into the newspaper as soon as possible. If we have no success we will move to advertise for an apprentice to fill the vacancy created by Don's retirement.

Manager Herriott reported that the pole replacement program was on going well. All the poles have been set and we are working on completing the transfers. Manager Herriott stated that Verizon has been in town working on transfers and the old poles will be ready to be removed providing the ground does not freeze too soon.

The Solar Project seems to still be on track. They expect to energize the project on or about December 10<sup>th</sup> for testing. The interconnection is complete and the new wire is energized. there are a few transfers remaining which USA expects to finish in the next couple of weeks.

Manager Herriott is still working with Attorney Scobbo trying to set the CATV pole attachment fee. Comcast has made an offer to pay in full this year. The amount billed is \$45,424.74. Then reduced by 30% next year, and then in the third year move to the BECO formula which would cut our revenue for pole attachments by Comcast to about half of what that amount is today. We are waiting for more information from APPA as they are coming out with a new attachment fee schedule in December.

There was no Executive Session.

Next meeting Date will be December 18 , 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Carlisle

Secretary