

## Ashburnham Municipal Light Board Meeting Minutes Regular session

Date: March 26, 2015

Location: 24 Williams Rd., Ashburnham, MA Conference Room

Board Members: Richard Ahlin, Chairman  
Mark Carlisle, Secretary (arrived at 6:45)  
Kevin Lashua

AMLP staff: Michael Rivers, General Manager

Others in Attendance: Anne Olivari, Jane Dancause, Matthew Wilson, Jeffrey Schrecke

Chairman Ahlin called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm and notified those in attendance that all meetings of the Light Board were subject to audio – video recording. Ahlin and Lashua present.

### **Manager's report:**

Clean Energy standards- Rivers gave an update on the proposed changes to the changes being proposed by the Mass DEP to the Clean Energy standards. If Muni's are included going forward, the cost for compliance payments by the AMLP will be approximately \$ 221,800 annually based on 2013 numbers, without gaining anything.

Accounting -have some minor issues with Town Accountant paying wrong vendor a couple of times. We may start to run payroll and warrant on the same week in the future per Manager River's request so that the Commissioners can begin signing warrants. Right now the town's deadline may be too short.

Ashburnham Westminster Regional School District is now paying monthly on a normal payment schedule instead of quarterly by mutual agreement.

MA Sale tax audit in progress, questions as to if Comcast is taxable or not.

MEAM meeting discussion mentioned Verizon wireless pole attachments possible but with the current proposed fee it is likely not be worth it.

Net metering- Belmont going thru significant revisions now, got several phone calls from Belmont residents.

Proposed town Health insurance changes appear to be a non issue as teachers unions are not in support. The 10.9% increase in premiums will remain in place.

MMWEC Stonybrook proposed plant expansion – rate payers would save and how interested are municipals in this, further discussion needs to be in Executive session as negotiations are still underway.

Solar production in January, February and March very low due to snow cover. In February we probably lost a little bit of money on the Murray Rd array, as the "station usage" to keep the inverter heaters going cost us a little more than the value of the power produced.

State Senator Gobi to be at town hall on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for a meet and greet, Rivers plans to attend.

Open meeting violations update. Both complaints by Michael Parenteau were closed by the Attorney General's office with no finding of any violation.

Rivers gave each Commissioner an Ethics disclosure of Appearance of a Conflict of Interest to notify them that the IBEW Local 104 representative Brian Pierce serves with Rivers as a Commissioner on the 3 member Sterling Light Board.

Commissioner Carlisle Arrived at 6:45 pm

Ahlin asked if there were any equipment issues due to the heavy snow this past winter. Manager Rivers answered no just normal repairs.

Lashua wanted to clarify that the streetlight that discussed at previous meetings and was the focus of a neighbor dispute on Watatic Pond Rd is owned by AMLP and rented by a customer.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Carlisle motioned to accept the Regular Minutes of February 25, 2015, Commissioner Lashua seconded. Ahlin aye, Carlisle, aye and Lashua aye

**Scheduling of next Board meeting**

Meeting tentatively scheduled for April 27, 2015 at 6:30 pm in AMLP Conference Room.

Carlisle made a motion to enter executive session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A: Section 21(a), Clauses 2, 3, & 10 To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with union, non union personnel relative to IBEW Collective Bargaining, Personnel Policies, Strategic Planning, and to Discuss Trade Secrets or Confidential, Competitively-Sensitive or Other Proprietary Information Provided in the Course of Activities Conducted by a Governmental Body as an Energy Supplier) to return to Open Session only to adjourn, seconded by Lashua. Roll Call vote, Ahlin, aye, Carlisle, aye, and Lashua, aye at 6:55pm.

At 9:06 pm the Board returned from Executive Session, and Carlisle made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lashua, Ahlin aye, Carlisle, aye and Lashua aye

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Carlisle, Clerk- Secretary                      Date

**Attached Documents:** Manager Appearance of a Conflict of Interest Form related to IBEW representative dated 03/23/2015