

MINUTES OF THE AUBURN MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY  
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012  
AT 4:00 PM

Members Present: Denny Zack, Chairperson, Jim Wride, John Montone, Mike Luksa, Mike Quill, Krste Biljanoski. Luke Rybarczyk

Members Absent: Vijay Mital,. Bill Graney and Nancy Hussey

Staff Present: Christina Selvek, Bill Lupien, Doug Selby, Anthony DeCaro, Andy Fusco

Staff Absent:

Chairperson Denny Zach called the meeting to order on Monday, May 14, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

Approval of meeting minutes – April 9, 2012

Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of April 9, 2012. Motion made by John Montone. Seconded by Mike Luksa. Carried.

**Public to be heard:**

Peter Ruzicka reported that under customer notification that the comments were not filed on time and the person responsible for this is Corporation Counsel and asked who was supposed to file them.

Doug Selby advised that he would look into it because he just received the notification and he didn't know if these are comments from outside counsel or the City Council who filed a motion to intervene.

John Montone advised that it was public comment and that we must have sent something through Kevin Brocks.

Andy Fusco advised that the report said comments were filed on March 13<sup>th</sup> and wondered who made them.

Discussion ensued and no one knew who had made them.

Doug Selby advised that there were two letters – Kevin Brocks sent one and then we, as the City Council approved, for an intervention. He did not know which one the document refers to.

John Montone reported that the net metering law has been approved.

## **Hydroelectric Facilities:**

Bill Lupien brought the Board up-to-date regarding the RFQ process. There were nine respondents and a team of five people to interview it on the selection committee – John Montone, Denny Zack, Doug Selby, Bill Lupien and Vicky Murphy.

There were nine three-ring binders and we are now down to three. We invited the three companies and conducted interviews and now we have a short list. We will be making a recommendation to the Mayor and Council shortly. The final selection will be made next week and will be on the City Council Agenda within a couple of weeks to appoint an Energy Performance Consultant.

The top two projects is the Mill Street Dam and the second project is to use the waste heat because we are going to lose some grant money if we don't have a use by the end of the year.

Denny Zach has a concern regarding negotiations with NYSEG on the contract that expires at the end of the year. He think this should be brought to the attention of the ESCO selected. One of the ESCOs has legal staff and he thought perhaps they could come up with some quick recommendations.

Anthony DeCaro reported that we were lucky enough to get some rain and brought us not only enough to bring us to summer elevation but it was enough to turn the wheel for a while. Anthony advised that we're generating as we speak and he thought we were good for a few more days.

Anthony advised that the DEC put 1,000 rainbow in at the State Dam and they put a thousand walleye in at Ensenore.

There was some discussion on the quality of the fishing.

Anthony reported that he received a letter advising that we were required to generate and have on file a safety management plan. He is involved with our Safety Office anyway so we're in contact with them to find out exactly what they want us to do to flesh that out. We have a window of time to work on that. It's a requirement that has been faded in over the last several years.

There was more discussion on this regarding a study done a couple of years ago.

Denny Zach inquired as to the standby demand charge at North Division. Anthony advised that yes it does. He reported on NYSEGs reluctance to allow us to have a separate meter for the facility need. The reason they are disallowing it is allows them to give us demand charge. Their rationale is that they claim that it's their defense against us trying to charge back power that we generate, if we were unscrupulous. They say that

they don't do that, it's against their policy but yet we have a meter that was a separate at Mill Street but they will not allow us to install anything like it at North Division.

John Montone advised that he thinks it's going to change with the remote net metering and we need to get it into effect as soon as possible. We have to have a load there, a separate meter for the net metering. The parasitic load has to show up on the meter and then we can net meter to the highest demand anywhere in the City.

There was discussion regarding the load and net metering.

John Montone handed out copies of the remote net metering bill that passed just a few weeks ago and is supposed to take effect immediately.

Anthony DeCaro advised that the contract at North Division doesn't end in December, it's the guarantee of the rate. The contract actually runs until 2019. There was discussion on the rates and the renegotiation of the remainder of the contract.

### **LFGTE Facility:**

Denny Zach reported that Mark Storrs has been doing a very good upgrade job on the wells. He did a tour of the plant – two engines were running. He advised that Chris said the gas production has come up. He didn't know how many extra wells were back online but the new meters are in which will help balance the wells better. He commended Mark for his good work in bringing the production up.

John Montone inquired if there had been any decision made on the Casey Park distribution line.

Denny Zach advised that Bill Graney had put it on hold.

Doug Selby advised that it has not been taken to City Council for action yet. He thinks part of the concern was whether the ESCOs would look at this and advise if we should go forward with it or make other recommendations.

### **Engineering Energy Updates:**

Bill Lupien reported that with Christine Selvek's help, the City received close to \$500,000 for the street lighting. The roughly 800 to 900 lamps have been retrofitted. They are all in and they were supposed to be done by the end of March. The lights are now operational at the Parking Garage and the second training schedule is supposed to happen within a week. That will show us how to run those lights. He went into some detail about the makeup of the lights. He advised that we have motion detectors and we also have photoelectric cells so we can take advantage of reducing the lights when no one needs to have it. He advised that we'll probably save 50% on the energy in the Parking Garage. On the regular street lighting, the City owns approximately 20% of the lights. All the wood poles are still the Gas and Electric poles, the metal poles are the City of

Auburn and out of that 20%, we will probably save half the electricity costs. So, we're saving about 10% on our electric bill. Between the Parking Garage and the street lighting, we're probably going to save over \$60,000 a year on this project. The City only spent about \$80,000 to \$90,000 total cost. There's a year and-a-half payback. The Energy Performance Consultant will be looking at renewable energies, contracts, hydroelectric, landfills, co-gen, sewage treatment plant operations – anything that we want them to investigate. They will all be cost-benefitting projects, otherwise they will not be done.

There was some discussion on whether the street lighting was metered or they just go by the wattage. Bill Lupien explained how it works with the Gas and Electric Company. We own the fixtures and we are now responsible to maintain another 900 fixtures but all of them have a solid 5-year guarantee and they're probably going to last 10 years. The Gas and Electric owns 3,800 but we don't have the ability to change theirs and they maintain them.

There was some discussion on any remaining lights that may have been missed and the ornamental lighting and the cobra heads.

#### **Planning Board & CEDA Updates:**

Christina Selvek reported regarding the Updated Consolidated Funding Application Program. Vicky and Christina are trying to explore ways to make an application this year to the Environmental Facilities Corporation for their Grain Innovative Grant Program. These are due in July.

Denny Zach inquired as to heat equipment or a plan regarding the NYSERDA grant.

John Montone reported that the Power Authority (NYPA) has an initiative of \$3,000,000 in solar. It isn't just for the buyer to install solar, it's for general ideas. If we make a recommendation from this Committee, they might grant us some money to do a demonstration here. He will provide more information.

There was a discussion on where the solar panels may be installed and how the cost has been reduced over the years.

Christina had a question on the remote net metering law. John Montone was able to respond.

Mike Quill inquired as to whether it would be worth having the ESCO looking into the 3800 street lamps, picking up a portion of them or how we could convert them to LED.

There was discussion regarding this regarding how the City could go about this to save money on the energy costs and having the ESCO look into this. Perhaps

**MOTION:** Denny Zack entertained a motion to adjourn. Luke \*\*\* made the motion.  
Seconded by Mike Luksa. Carried.