

MINUTES OF THE AUBURN MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014
AT 4:00 PM

Members Present: Denny Zach, Chairperson, Mike Luksa, Nancy Hussey, John Montone, Mike Quill and Peter Ruzicka

Members Absent: Krste Biljanoski and Mike Daley

Staff Present: Anthony DeCaro

Staff Absent: Doug Selby and Bill Lupien

Chairperson Denny Zach called the meeting to order on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

Approval of meeting minutes. Motion made by Peter Ruzicka, seconded by John Montone. Carried.

Public to be heard:

Denny introduced Fred Kerr who is hopeful of filling the vacancy left by Jim Wride's resignation.

Hydroelectric Facilities:

Anthony DeCaro advised that there is a problem at Mill Street. All of the mechanization to open and close the gates to do the work initially caused a problem with the Rodney Hunt. This is the gate that is at the bottom of the Mill Street Dam. Anthony went on to explain the problem incurred. The amount of water as it was rising and lower brought in debris and with CHANT changing the level of the pond several times in order to do the work that they needed to do, some of the debris got caught in the gate. At the same time, while they were trying to free that, they didn't realize that there was corrosion at one of the followers on the shaft. When they came in to clear that debris before they filled the pond back up, the bearing seized and the torque was transmitted to the shaft itself instead of properly moving the gate. So, instead of being a nice straight shaft, it was transmitting all the force to bring the gate up and down. Therefore, the rod itself took the torque and it corkscrewed. Anthony advised that he took it out and notified the people that needed to know and then it was decided that this needed to get done before winter and didn't want a circumstance to come up where they had to dewater the pond where that could completely fail. We could still move the gate up and down but it was in a deteriorating condition. It was necessary to take the pond down to do that. They are in the process of getting it reconstructed of similar materials. He expects that delivery will be within the next couple of days. It has been down about three weeks. There was discussion on the type of materials used and what could be done to replace it. There has been work done on the counterbalance. They were in the process of doing that when they had the problem with the Rodney Hunt. Anthony went on to discuss the issues.

Nancy inquired as to the output before it was shut down. Anthony advised that the output was pretty good but CHANT is still running down the problem that they point to NYSEG. It won't run at 100%. The answers that they have been getting have to do with the fact that they believe that it's NYSEG's complicity there that it's a problem with synchronizing phase with the power. There is a reason that CHANT has been giving us that claim that it's on NYSEG's side that it won't synchronize. So they haven't been able to go above 80%. They and Siemens have been pursuing that. There is a meeting set up where the findings are to be presented. This problem was discussed further.

Anthony advised that North Division has been running but there is a situation where it won't shut down properly. Rather than shut down, the blades reverse and it goes into a generation mode. We don't get an alarm. When it does that, it's using power. It was designed to be a pump as well as a generator. It was designed for applications where they pumped to storage and then generate. We don't use it that way. What's happening is that in the capacitor that are supposed to allow it simply to shut down, they're not triggering properly so instead of shutting down when there's a variance, it's going into pump mode. The blades are flipping too far and it's generating power. HMT is conducting an investigation and they've narrowed it down to the fact that it was the capacitors. At this point they were asked to wait for a couple of things. They are supposed to be getting back an answer this month on the grant that they were looking at for North Division before they pursue any expensive costs to remedy the problem. In lieu of getting an answer on that, Tony will have HMT investigate further if we're looking not to replace that equipment down the line. This issue was discussed further.

Denny inquired as to the status of the grant. Anthony advised they are still waiting to hear. Anthony also spoke regarding the net metering requirements which prompted discussion on the issues surrounding this.

Denny advised that he had met with Doug and one of the issues discussed was the Mill Street contract and that more help was required. Anthony responded that the issue is before the Civil Service Commission and is going through the process. The grant called for an assistant to be hired once that project went commercial and we're on the verge of doing so. This process was discussed.

LFGTE Facility

Denny advised that Mark had sent out a production report for the month and it did average over a megawatt hour. It was close but was just over- 1.058 was the amount sold. Denny spoke regarding the sale of carbon credits and the benefits to the City for doing so. This was discussed.

A discussion ensued regarding running a meter to the flare skid. Readings were discussed also. Further discussion ensued regarding meters. Denny suggested a meeting with Doug and Christina regarding contacting companies who are buying the carbon credits. Rec credits were discussed as well.

Denny advised that he had contacted Energy Advantage who the City had put out an RFP with on a feasibility study on the electric. He has not heard back from them. There was discussion on the NYSEG agreement whereas we are only getting 80%. More discussion ensued.

Denny discussed the possibility of getting rid of the standby charge and the benefits to the City. This was discussed further.

Denny inquired about the emissions control at the cogen. He wondered if we could have it combined with the natural gas generation. Denny will try to speak to the DEC regarding this. This was discussed. There was a discussion regarding the New York ISO.

New Business:

Denny advised that he had forwarded some e-mails from Christina regarding solar and he discussed it with Doug also. There are several programs out and Syracuse is participating in the program. Christina has applied for all the programs for solarization. Denny provided background on the projects and this was discussed.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike Luksa, seconded by Nancy Hussey. Adjourned.