

MINUTES OF THE AUBURN MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY  
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015  
AT 4:00 PM

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

Members Absent: Krste Biljanoski, Mike Quill and Mike Daley

Staff Present: Vicky Murphy, Anthony DeCaro and Doug Selby

Staff Absent: Bill Lupien

Chairperson Denny Zach called the meeting to order on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 4:00 pm.

Approval of February 9, 2015 meeting minutes: Motion by John Montone, seconded by Peter Ruzicka. Approved.

**Public to be heard:**

None.

**Hydroelectric Facilities:**

Mill Street: Anthony reported on the Lake level and the River flow. As the flow increases, he will be able to up the production. Once we get word from NYSEG, we will be able to test their balancing of the phases of power. We haven't really gone to the drastic reactive power that they had suggested as a possibility. He'd like to get them back and take a look and reprogram that so it's the least amount of reactive power that we have set with that set because it will run cooler and be more efficient. For the last five or six days with the weather that we've had there has been enough of a break in the ice that we've actually been able to run it around the clock. Before that we've had ice being one of the major problems to trying to run. Even in the pond behind the Mill Street Dam there is several feet of snow and some ice that would be getting into the channel that would interrupt the runs. So the runs were hours in length rather than around the clock. It was difficult to try to keep it running until we had things warm up a bit more. So, we have been able to get some sustained runs. Anthony handed out some information from Seth that needs to be going to NYSERDA. It is information that is collected at the plant, put on a spreadsheet and then forward it to the Manager, Christina, etc. for reporting purposes. We still don't have telemetry set up yet but this is being worked on. We are able to get some spot reporting of what power production is and were able to get a graphic representation of production from October to February, so far. He discussed this report further.

John Montone spoke regarding the Water Data Dialog and North Division Street Dam. Anthony reiterated his data and spoke regarding the gauge site. This was discussed.

Denny inquired about a flowing gate or barrier. Anthony advised that one was priced out but this was an extra that wasn't offered. He did advise that we actually have a logging boom ahead of the gate at State Dam and it's quite good at keeping a lot of things out. Mill Street might be problematic in that the chute or the headrace is a pretty long one. While that would keep some of the stuff from the pond out, it wouldn't eliminate any of the ice that forms in the channel itself. It might be helpful with debris but not so much with ice. This was discussed. Frazzle ice was discussed as well.

Denny inquired about when HMT saw the imbalance on the lines and if the generator was running at that time of the tests. Anthony responded that it was running sporadically. However, we haven't programmed it for a higher percentage of reactive power. This was discussed further. The balance was discussed as well.

North Division Street Dam: Anthony advised that there was going to be a meeting this Wednesday and asked Doug to report on this. Doug reported that a meeting had been set up with NYSEG for Wednesday to talk specifically about North Division Street and the contract. He discussed this further and provided details. He thought we were being realistic in the *proforma*. The contract was discussed.

Denny inquired what the ISO was paying us under their contract. Doug and Vicky spoke to this. It looks like we're getting a little over 2 cents which is 90% of the avoided cost. This was discussed further.

The electrical service for the security and the meter for remote net metering was discussed. Anthony advised that we could get around it and provided details. It was discussed that NYSEG should be installing the service. This was discussed further. John asked if we should be requesting proposals from O'Connell or someone to find out what it would cost to run the wire over to the Fire Station. Anthony agreed that we need to get that price. Doug advised that right now nothing is running so we can't do anything.

## **LFGTE Facility**

Vicky advised that she didn't have charts as Mark didn't get her the readings. She will provide them once they are available. She did report that methane back up again and that we had been way down and couldn't run.

John Montone reported on the information for the stack test. Vicky advised that they're thinking of doing one in May or June of this year. It's based on hours of service or years. John advised that it should be pushed forward, get it done and for the natural gas and then Denny could get prices for the natural gas. When we lost money last time, we didn't own the plant and we were just buying natural gas and we still had to pay the difference. We didn't follow the energy service agreement the way it should have been followed. Vicky thought that one of the problems might be that when you get a price for the natural gas you have to tell them what you expect your consumption will be. John advised that we can tell what that figure will be if we're going to blend it with the methane. He went on to advise how this would be done. Vicky advised that she was waiting on a report from a consultant. Also, if we are going to sell on the green market,

there may be some issues about how much is green, etc. This was discussed further. The RTU was discussed. She hoped to know more about this issue by the end of the week. The issues with this were discussed.

Denny reported on gas contracts and discussions ensued. A report from Energy Advantage was discussed and Vicky asked that everyone read it and then it could be discussed. Peter Ruzicka asked that the report be e-mailed to all Board members. Reports from the operating company were discussed.

### **New Business and Old Business:**

Denny advised that he did a presentation to Council regarding a year-end report. He asked for a budget of perhaps 4 mills out of the production. At this point, there is no Council support. There was discussion regarding the fact that Councilor Cuddy didn't want staff time to be wasted on filling out the Pride of New York solar program. Denny thought we may have merged that with the County. Denny thought there might be a possibility of donated funds. There was discussion on showing specific funds in specific accounts which are not individually spelled out now. There was more discussion on flaring of the methane gas and possible savings. Denny advised that a public seminar should be held for residences and small business to go over all of the programs for solarization. This was discussed. Solar programs were discussed. The New England Market was also discussed. A solar seminar for residences and small business was discussed further. **Denny entertained a motion by Peter Ruzika, seconded by John Montone to support a proposal of holding a solar informational seminar for residents and small business in the City of Auburn with CAPOOSTA. Carried.**

Motion to adjourn by John Montone, seconded by Mike Luksa. Carried.