

10/28/10 Light Board Meeting

Present: Commissioners Patrick Cannon, David Irwin, Joseph DiVito, Jr., Stephanie Landry and Dan Ciccariello. Also present: Town Manager, Philip Lemnios, Operations Manager, Richard Miller and Recording Secretary Janis Ford.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

### **Public Input**

There was no Public Input

### **Manager's Report**

On Friday October 1 we had a Town wide outage resulting from a tree limb crossing both circuits at Hobart Street. Power was out for approximately 2 hours.

Last night we had 3 dips town wide at approximately 7 pm due to a substation problem in East Weymouth. "It was a flash over from East Weymouth to North Weymouth."

The Town has been experiencing a malware problem in the computer system. Janis's computer was the only affected at the Light Plant so far. Judi Saide reported today that she has turned a corner and we should have that computer back next week. It has affected Police, Fire, Town Hall and all the schools and each machine can take over 4 hours to fix. "The malware that infected these machines was sent by a message saying either someone wanted you as a friend on facebook or a message saying that you had received a Hallmark card. If you open it, it triggers the malware that is imbedded into the link. A virus is different in that it can be spread to millions of computers. Judi has to go into each computer and scrub each one. Four people are working on it."

I would like the Board to consider raising the bounced check fee to \$25.00 while this would still be below the average it would at least help defray some costs. "We have been getting more bounced checks lately."

David Irwin made a motion to raise the bounced check fee to \$25.00. Joe DiVito, Jr. seconded the motion. Voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Last, I would like to put out a press release explaining the winter moratorium on bills. People with a payment agreement in place have to maintain they're deal or they will be terminated. "We're coming up on November 15<sup>th</sup> and the moratorium is from November 15<sup>th</sup> through March 15<sup>th</sup>. To be eligible for the moratorium the customer must have a Doctors note or fill out a Financial Hardship Form. We are exempt from the moratorium but the Department of Public Utilities requests that municipals honor it."

Dan asked Dick what would happen if he didn't pay his bill, "Will you shut me off?" Dick said, "Not until March but if you have an agreement and you don't pay then you will be shut off."

Phil suggested that they get rid of it and go with the hardship policy and define the criteria.

Pat said that the Board should have discussions in the spring about doing away with it.

Phil suggested to Dick that instead of doing a press release to consider writing a letter instead.

Joe was asked how a lien is handled. Joe said that when the money comes in they honor the lien first.

Dick said that he would write a letter and that they would phase out the concept of the moratorium and spell out how someone is protected.

### **Old Business – Negotiations for Hull Wind 2 Payment**

Pat started by informing Phil about discussions the Board has had during previous meetings regarding Hull Wind 2 Payments.

Pat went over the packet containing the information that Pat and David researched.  
**See packet enclosed.**

When Pat was talking about land/rent comparison with other Departments in Town, Phil asked Pat how much land he thought he was leasing. Pat responded, "The Selectmen gave us care, custody and control of 3,600 square feet. Would you agree you can't put anything under the fall zone?" Pat said he didn't know of anything you would want to put on the land. Dan asked Phil how many bids he has gotten for the land. Phil said that he was going to get to that. Dan asked Phil, "As Light Board Manager what would you advise is the value? Phil said that he would want to pay a fair amount. Dan said, "It depends on what side you're on."

Phil gave his presentation to the Board that included excerpts from of Minutes previous Board Meetings in which the Minutes were approved and voted on.

Minutes from 2003 Board Meeting held at the Senior Center

2002 Financials – MacLeod handed out Financials to discuss with the Board

10/16/03 Meeting – Hull Wind II references to the Newsletter – Will address questions and concerns –

Hull Wind I was discussed with projection figures to Hull Wind II

Newsletter Spring 2004 – Projection that Hull Wind II will save 10%

Senior Center Handout – Savings of \$552,000

Cost of project 1.8 million dollars and discussion of possible location.

Phil asked, "How does a project start out at \$1.8 million then go to \$3.8 million? There was a significant misrepresentation made to the public."

**See Phil's notes.**

Pat said there was \$250,000 in foundation work because steel costs were going up. Phil said at the time Steel prices were going down. Pat said in the same time frame steel was going up. Phil said that the project went way out of whack. Dan said that it was not their fault that the Light Plant Manager wasn't doing his job. Phil said that he was just trying to put context for discussion. "You're saying Chris McCabe said false statements but the Minutes show otherwise." Dan said that Chris McCabe was the Light Plant Manager and he was responsible. Phil said, "If you had gone and said back in 2004 to the public the facts, do you want to do it? When did everyone involved decide?"

Pat said, "We were advised by the Operations Manager at the time what was going on with corona and steel costs. We were under the impression we were being told the truth."

Dan went back to the Minutes and asked Phil, "At any time did you see rent being discussed? There's nothing there since September 2003." Phil said that there is an exchange of benefit. Dan said, "You said you're a fair person, you think benefits equal rent? Phil said, "When this was proposed there was a clear indication about benefits to the ratepayers. This is sprinkled throughout the documents. Would you agree?" Dan asked again, "Was there anything said about rent?" Phil asked Pat, "If you are the average ratepayer what would you think your benefits are? Dan said that he would not be thinking that he would be paying rent. Phil said it would have been better for Hull Light to do net metering. Pat brought up Scituate and said there is a difference between investor and Town. "You had no plans on building on that land." Phil said that other Towns are putting solar rays up and Hull can't do it now.

Phil said to the Board, "I respect you but I feel the public was not adequately served."

Stephanie requested that Phil, "Stop robbing Peter to pay Paul and help get the Light Plant back on its feet.

Phil asked if Pat told the Board what he had offered. The Board said they were told. Phil said, "So now you're at \$20,000 and I should say \$42,000.

"I appreciate the Boards frustration and I am sincerely apologetic but sometimes you have to keep things moving." Stephanie asked, "What if we agree and someone else comes in and takes your place? Phil said that you put it to paper.

Phil asked the Board to reconsider what he had offered and then it would be over.

The Board discussed putting it on the Agenda for the next meeting on 11/18/10 then they starting going over the figures. Pat said if we pay \$42,000 for the 16 years of its life that would be \$672,000.

Phil was at \$400,000 – Year 2010 - \$200,000 Year 2011 - \$200,000

Phil offered to change his original figures to \$115,000 in 2012 - \$100,000 in 2013

Phil told the Board that he would like to settle it that evening because he had to commit to a budget on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Dan felt as though Phil was "strong-arming" the Board because he had to commit to a Budget. Phil said the Dan was using strong language, "The November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was scheduled by the Selectmen and you're last Board Meeting I was told not to come. I'm just giving you a heads up on my schedule." Dan asked Phil if budget proposals are written in stone. Phil said they are not written in stone but stone like. Phil said, "You're working with the revenue side then you build in expenses from that. When you change it, it changes the whole budget. When you start doing the revenue side some are fixed and some are estimated." Dan said, "If we say we don't want that solution, it doesn't matter what we decide on because you're going to do it anyway." Phil said that he was trying to come to a solution. Dan said that it's not in good faith because he was going to do it anyway.

Pat went over the figures for payment that originally amounted to \$840,000. Phil made an offer to bring it down to \$725,000. Pat said, "I see an opportunity to be done with this, after year 2014 we will have it in writing that that will be it. We have an opportunity to save \$115,000 and as far as I'm concerned I want to get it over with."

Joe wanted to discuss his recommendation from the previous Meeting, "Stop at \$200,000 in 2012. We've had two years of \$200,000 already. I recommend one more year of \$200,000 then sign an agreement and that will be the end of it."

The Board discussed figures back and forth with Phil. Dan said to Phil, "To vote just because you want to get it done is not the reason to do it."

Joe DiVito, Jr. made a motion to pay \$200,000 in 2012 and then put it in writing that going forward there would be no more payments except in lieu fo tax by it's current calculations. David seconded the motion. Voted 3-2 in favor. Motion carried. Yea Joe DiVito,Jr. David Irwin and Pat Cannon. Nay Stephanie Landry and Dan Ciccariello.

### **New Business**

There was not New Business to discuss.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Pat said due to the fact that the Board Members hadn't had a chance to read the Minutes; they should be put off until the next meeting.

### **Items for Discussion**

The Board agreed to hold the next Board Meeting on December 2, 2010.

### **Adjournment**

David Irwin made a motion to adjourn. Dan Ciccariello seconded the motion. Voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM