

06/03/10 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 6:05 p.m.

Public Input

There was no Public Input

Manager's Report

All poles that Verizon could complete are done and all but about 3 or 4 are removed. All that is left have catv on them and Comcast has been notified.

We are in the process of moving our pole storage to the dump. All new poles will be stored there freeing up our yard and relieving the neighbors of any odors that emanate during a heat wave. Should be done by next week. Dick said that there are some people that want the old poles.

We are down to the last two candidates for the position in the office with final interviews next week.

I would ask the chair to please give the office a full week prior to the meeting to put together packets or any printing that may be needed and to go through me with any requests of the staff.

New Business

Gosnold Property

David asked why Hull Light is hanging on to the Gosnold property. Dick said that originally Lutz had thoughts of putting Hull Light on the property but was not able to due to environmental purposes. Phil said there is ledge and wetlands and only one water service, there are limited utilities because of environmental issues. "You could put conservation limitations on it." Phil told David that the Finance Committee is taking a harder look at five properties. There are two large lots on Mountford Road. Pat asked about the land that had Showboat on it. Phil said that land was deeded to the Town by Fred Kiley.

Open Meeting Laws Training

Dan told Phil that he had attended training given by Jim Lampke regarding Open Meeting Laws. Dan asked if the Attorney Generals office was going to give guidelines on the new responsibilities for the Clerk. Phil said they haven't come out with them yet.

Discounts to Customers

David asked how long the 10% discount has been offered to customers and asked if Dick thought it was a good thing. Dick said 60% of customers take advantage of it. The strongest people get the discount and the weaker subsidize it. He said the auditors don't like the discount. David asked how HMLP was doing cash wise. Dick said that we are creeping back. David asked if they could do away with the discount instead of raising the PPA. Pat said the discount is embedded in Hingham and Hull. Dan said the discount encourages people to pay their bill. Phil said that it has been a long tradition; to suspend it for a few months would cause more confusion. Pat suggested that the Board discuss balance billing the next meeting and said that the Budget should be looked at every month so they know where they are.

Old Business

Each Board Member was given a packet of the information that Pat and David researched. Pat said it was hard to get exact numbers because most all of the information gathered was private deals. "To throw a number out there I could tell you \$5,000 to \$15,000 is paid as rent to land owners per year per turbine. Most between \$12,000 and \$13,000. Pat put a video in of the Selectmen's Meeting dated 09/27/05. At one point in the video the Town Manager at the time, McCabe stated that the turbine on the landfill was

going to reduce electric bills by 10%. At that point there was discussion between the Town Manager, Phil Lemnios and the Board asking the Board when they realized that that statement was false and what did they do to correct the statement. After lengthy discussion back and forth the Town Manager respectfully requested that the Board and the Town Manager would look at the video individually before going on with the discussion. Pat said there was no mention that there was a give to get. Phil said that clearly there was representation that if you go ahead with this there will be a benefit made. Pat read some of the pages that were in his packet:

Sewer Plant in use since 1978 – only one pilot taken last year - \$150,000 – Why only one time?
This operation takes for more land space than Hull I or Hull II.

There are nine pump stations and one treatment facility.

I do not think we should be pushing for the Sewer Department to have to pay a pilot but fair is fair. The Light Board represents the electric ratepayers – the Sewer Commission represents the sewer rate payers.

Madison, NY additional six-unit wind project pay \$60,000 per year or \$10,000 per turbine per year.

Depreciation???

Hull Wind II Pilot - 3.2 million x tax rate 11.48 = \$36,736 Pilot to Town.

Hull Wind I Pilot – 840,000 x tax rate 11.48 = \$9,413 Pilot to Town

Pat read a list of 17 different items Hull Light does for the community. “It is a good neighbor policy and I don’t want to stop doing these things.”

Phil said that it is an interesting packet, “There are rental properties in place for turbines and In Lieu of Tax by valuation.” He talked about Chapter 164 and how Hull is a privately owned utility.

Phil said they are in the same position as three months ago. “Some Board Members feel there should be no rent, others think they should look into what it should be.” Phil said he would look at the packet and take it into consideration. He said the Board is so mixed that it’s hard to discuss.

Stephanie said she didn’t want to discuss it because the onus is on the Town Manager to study. “I think just because the Town Manager wants \$200,000, it’s not right for the Board Members to be putting together a study.”

Dan reported that he talked to two Attorneys and the Board of Ethics. Phil asked if these meetings were posted and if there were any minutes of these meetings. Phil made a request to Dan to get notes within 10 days relative to any notes taken about these meetings.

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

David said that he was ticked off because it was the fourth time he had been blown off when he brought up his discussion of changes he wanted to make. Pat said that it could put on as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

Reorganization

David Irwin made a motion to nominate Pat Cannon as Chairman. Joe DiVito, Jr. seconded the motion. Voted 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Dan Ciccariello made a motion to nominate David Irwin as Vice Chairman. David Irwin respectfully declined.

Dan Ciccariello made a motion to nominate Stephanie Landry as Vice Chairman. Stephanie Landry respectfully declined.

Stephanie Landry made a motion to nominate Dan Ciccariello as Vice Chairman. Joe DiVito, Jr. seconded the motion. Voted 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Dan Ciccariello made a motion to nominate Joe DiVito, Jr. as Clerk. Joe DiVito respectfully declined.

Dan Ciccariello made a motion to nominate David Irwin as Clerk. Joe DiVito, Jr. seconded the motion. Voted 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM