

09/30/10 Light Board Meeting

Present: Commissioners Patrick Cannon, David Irwin, Stephanie Landry and Dan Ciccariello. Also present: Recording Secretary, Janis Ford.

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

Public Input

There was no Public Input

Manager's Report

The Operations Manager was not in attendance to give a Report.

Old Business

Holiday Lighting Request 2010 – The Chamber of Commerce Events Chairman, Kevin Morris wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Board requesting \$4,000 to support and maintain the Holiday Lighting Program. In the letter they said that they would be using additional funds currently in the Chambers account accrued from previous year's to buy all new electrical cables and connectors that had been recommended by Pat.

Pat explained to the Board that they have been allowed to keep any extra money not used as long as there is an accounting for all money spent. The Board spoke of the timeline in which this would be done which is usually after Thanksgiving and after little Christmas. Pat noted that they were asking early this year, which is a good sign.

Negotiations for Hull Wind 2 Payment – Pat explained to the Board that he had done some organizing after the last Board Meeting and wanted to talk with the Board before they spoke with Phil. "If we're successful changing Chapter 8, it will take two Town Meetings. If we start negotiations with Phil and start with \$17,000 and finish with \$50,000, we're stuck with it." Pat said he sat with Phil and presented him with some thoughts. Assuming he took \$200,000 Fiscal Year 2011, \$200,000 Fiscal Year 2012, \$125,000 Fiscal Year 2013, \$75,000 Fiscal Year 2014, 0 Fiscal Year 2015 then sign a letter of agreement with Phil after that there will be no more payments just the In-lieu-of tax payment. Pat said that Phil seemed open to the idea.

Dan said that he would like to see an article in Town Meeting forbidding Town Manager from taking money from the Light Plant and just pay the taxes.

Stephanie said that it is no longer just the Board, now it's the Town getting involved. Pat said that he would like to put an end to it.

Dan said to Pat, "The original proposal was to give an additional 10% in good faith. Now you're proposing giving \$200,000 in fiscal year 2012 and \$125,000 in fiscal year 2013.

Pat explained that he had attended a meeting consisting of people that are proposing another turbine who want the Town to pay \$200,000 and Phil said no. "After the meeting Dick and I sat in with Phil and I had an argument with Phil. We got a lot of things out on the table." Pat said he argued with Phil, "Why did we even put the turbines up if the taxpayers get all the money?"

Stephanie said that she thought that the Board was going to discuss strategy then discuss with Phil.

Stephanie said to Joe, "The first time he took the money I told you that he would take again. Joe replied, "No you said he would take more and I said he won't." Pat said that Phil had said that it would be a one-time thing but it wasn't. Joe added, "But it was for the Sewer Department."

Dan said to Pat, "I appreciate your valiant effort but I don't think it's appropriate because it's validating what he's doing. It should be a gift from us and not him taking it.

Joe said that he would like to know more of how an article works because he is familiar with how a motion works. "The Budget includes \$200,000 from HMLP so you can make a motion to hold the

Budget.” Pat said if they hold the Budget then they are \$200,000 in the hole. Stephanie said, “That’s not our responsibility, that’s his problem.”

The Board discussed how they handled Sandy Grauds situation at Town Meeting by funding from the Stabilization Fund. Dan said that he would research articles to find the step-by-step process.

Dan asked why Phil was not in attendance. Pat explained, “He had plans and I cancelled the meeting last week.”

Stephanie said she was afraid of what Joe was suggesting, “The lion is bringing us into his den and the Light Plant shouldn’t be dragged into that.”

Pat said, “We want to do the right thing in the articles. Outside council should be separate. First is that Budget. Second are two separate articles for Chapter 8. Set control with first article, no money from HMLP then we can get the ability to get a lawyer.”

Stephanie asked why she did not receive the Minutes of the last Meeting (09/16/10). Janis explained that she hadn’t had them checked by Dick yet. Pat said that he would try to get material out sooner.

The Board started a discussion on streetlights and traffic signals. David said that he would like to renege on the street lighting and get \$17,000 for Hull Wind I and \$42,000 for Hull Wind II.

Stephanie said, “I don’t think that Phil should get the \$200,000 but the \$60,000 has been given so long. I think we need to focus on the \$200,000. We’re throwing too many other things into it.”

Dan said that he would like to see the spreadsheet for street lighting and traffic signals for the past few years.

Pat went over the articles that should be discussed.

1. Article to say stop taking money from Hull Light.
2. Steps to change Chapter 8 to create an insertion between Town Manager and the Light Plant Manager.
3. We should be able to hire an attorney.

Dan said that all of that should be discussed at next meeting. Pat said, “The average person at Town Meeting will know where we’re coming from.”

Dan said that he doesn’t mind helping out the Town and is willing to negotiate the 10% but will not allow Phil to take \$200,000. Pat suggested, “If you didn’t go after \$200,000 at that Meeting, we could look forward to getting it stopped in the future. It pits us against other Boards.” Stephanie said that it doesn’t but instead it pits Phil against everyone.

Joe said that he could save \$600,000 over the life of the windmill, which is 20 years.

Dan said, “He should not have done it, he shouldn’t do it and he shouldn’t do it in the future. He’s overstepped his boundaries. He shouldn’t take money and say he’s a good Town Manager because he’s not. We are accountable. He can take whatever but not with my approval. If Phil goes to Town Meeting and says what he says and I say what I say and they say no, so be it.”

Stephanie said, “We can use Town Meeting to educate people on what has happened to their money. We have done our job as elected officials to protect the ratepayers.”

Joe said he wants to take the best approach to get an article passed in order to stop the bleeding. Dan agreed and said if they lose that article, then fine. Pat said if they lose against Phil then he can just keep on taking. Dan said that he wants Phil to know that he is not going to do it without a fight. Joe said, “Let’s see if we can put an article to change the Budget. We can put one on for Chapter 8”

Pat asked if everyone wanted to March ahead. Stephanie said that she thought that was decided at the last meeting. Dan said to be fair to Pat; he was only trying to stop the bleeding.

David said that the Board should prepare what will be said at Town Meeting. “Hopefully the lawyer article doesn’t come up first. Chapter 8 should come up first. They would see that it’s common sense to put someone in the middle to protect the ratepayers.” Joe said the Budget doesn’t come up first because it’s lottery driven. Joe asked Pat what should be done next meeting, “Would you want to address to float the \$17,000. I like the \$200,000 and stop, not \$17,000 over the life.” Dan said, “The issue is being able to stand up at Town Meeting and say we offer 10% additional discount to Town to help out as long as there is a budget crunch.” Stephanie said they have the opportunity to help the ratepayers. Joe said, “It’s

our fault we didn't raise the rates fast enough." Pat said they've only raised the rates once since he's been on board.

Pat asked the Board again what their wishes were for next meeting.

Dan said, "We should tell him our offer of 10% and not forget about the \$200,000. Pat said, "So we should offer a 10% increase to help out and if not then we're going to Town Meeting." Dan said that it was no secret; Phil knows that they can go to Town Meeting. Stephanie asked how they could stop the \$200,000 extra. Joe said that it's a gamble and felt that they should stick with the original strategy. "We can ask it to end after \$400,000. I'm just nervous about Town Meeting because I know what will happen. It will not bode well with us cutting \$200,000 out of the Budget."

Dan said that Phil created the problem and he has the ability to stop it.

Approval of Minutes

The Board decided to hold off on Approval of Minutes until the next meeting.

New Business

Stephanie made a request that all Board Members receive a telephone call as well as an email when meetings are cancelled.

The Board Members agreed on the future Meeting dates:
October 28, 2010, November 18, 2010 and December 9, 2010.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

Items for Discussion

There were no Items for Discussion

Adjournment

Dan Cicciarello made a motion to adjourn. Joe, DiVito, Jr. seconded the motion. Voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM