

01/27/11 Light Board Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Public Input

There was no Public Input

Manager's Report

Budget

Dick reported that he had completed the new Budget and we ended the year 2010 being \$33,500 in the black. There were no issues with the Budget. Hull Light received a check for \$418,582.20 from Berkshire Wind. \$90,000 is budgeted for Berkshire Wind and it should be up and running this year. Joe asked about the budgeted \$200,000 for the Depreciation Fund. Dick explained that we have to start building that up every year.

Meeting with Hingham Manager

Dick met with John Tzimirangus from Hingham Light and they discussed ways the two Departments can help each other out with equipment. We can't give mutual aid because of Halpin but if they need help we'll send a truck and they can pay us. We talked about the line going through Hingham. Scott Thatcher from National Grid is coming down next week.

MEAM Meeting

A week ago Tuesday Dick went to a MEAM Meeting regarding carbon credit auctions REGI's. It's based on usage. They sell carbon credits at auctions then they reimburse 20% of auction to IOU's. In 2009 with 12 or 15 million, Hull would be eligible for 50 or 60 thousand a year. You're supposed to use the money for energy efficiency programs. Dick is writing a letter to the Senator and made a call to Bob Hedlund.

Storm – 01/12/11

David wanted to commend Dick and his crew for keeping the lights on during the storm of 01/12/11. Phil mentioned that one of the residences in that area clocked winds at 100 mph. Joe asked if there should be press releases after storms like that. Phil explained that they are in the process of meeting with National Grid and Hingham and then they can make a public report. Dick said the first thing to do is get National Grid to rebuild the line and they will refuse saying that they fixed it or it's too expensive. When that happens then we will go to the Court of Public Opinion and contact Representative Bradley. National Grid tends to look at more important people that live in Scituate. Dick explained express feed going through Hingham, which is 22,000 volts to the substation on Rockland Street and then it steps down to 13,800 volts. Hingham has a 115,000 volt line that goes to the Hobart Street Substation. John is going to do a rebuild of his substations; if we rebuild it would be double spacer and aluminum. It's a liability to us because we lose power. We should be able to have answers in 60 to 90 days. Dick said that the planned power outage that was scheduled to take 45 minutes to 1-hour should have taken 10 to 20 minutes to fix. Joe asked why we couldn't use our guys to fix the line. Dick said, "We can't touch their lines."

Old Business – Negotiations for Hull Wind 2 Payment

Letter from James Lampke – Purchased Power Adjustment

Dick said the letter explains that the Manager takes care of it. “John Tzimirangus said they do the same thing in Hingham.

Discuss Agreement Language regarding HWII payment to the Town

Pat said on the Meeting of 10/28/10 the Board had agreed that there would be one more payment of \$200,000 then that would be the end of it. Pat was to get together with Phil to write up Memorandum of Understanding but when he met with Phil, Phil was of the understanding the Board wanted to go to Town Meeting. Phil said on the Meeting of 12/02/10 the Board was having a robust conversation and he wants to understand what the Boards intent is. “I want to make it clear that I fully respect the Boards rights to pursue roads to do what they want to do and if they want to discuss this at Town Meeting, I’m fine with it. I think the Town should have the benefit of totality of the story.” Pat said that he wants to stop the bleeding, “I’d rather take the agreement now and not go to Town Meeting. Phil said that is a Light Board discussion and he would not respond. David asked Phil if it’s legal for the Board to go into an agreement with the Town Manager. Pat said that Phil had sat down with the Board and put an agreement together. Stephanie said that Phil chooses a formula. Phil said that the formula predates him; it goes back into the 80’s. Stephanie asked if the Pilot was mandatory. Phil said that they’re not mandatory but they are a tradition. Dick said that every municipality pays a pilot, there are a couple of small municipalities that pay for street lights instead. Hingham does their pilot payment based on sales. Phil asked Stephanie if she was going back to if there should be a pilot. Stephanie said, “We didn’t have a problem with the pilot, we had a problem with the above and beyond.” Phil said that he understood her position but didn’t feel that it could be talked about anymore because they would get nowhere. Dick said in the 12/02/10 Meeting Pat was charged to meet with Phil to write up an agreement. “If I were Phil I would think you didn’t trust me.” Stephanie asked what if he left. Dick said you make it a lease. Joe said that’s why he voted for a lease. “A lease spans the life of the building and once it’s signed and ratified, we won’t have anything different no matter what Manager is here. We should put to bed the \$200,000. The majority of the Board voted that the lease would be \$600,000.” Stephanie asked how you explain the \$600,000 to the ratepayers. Dick said that it was already voted on. Joe said that a \$600,000 lease is protecting the ratepayers with the last \$200,000 payment. David asked if the Board could enter this lease with the Town Manager or the Selectmen. “From what I can see someone is going to bring it up at Town Meeting.” Phil said, “At this point I think Town Meeting has every right to here the story.” Stephanie asked why they’re even talking about it when the Board only sets rates. Phil said that he was flabbergasted that Stephanie asked that question after all the discussions they’ve been having. “I think people have tried to make an agreement but at this point I think the Town should know the totality of the circumstances and the totality of the story and then they will have transparency and clarity.” Stephanie said she was of the understanding that Pat was to sit down with Phil and put something in writing to bring it back to the Board. Pat said that he had already explained that when he sat down with Phil he didn’t feel comfortable because of the Boards discussion about going to Town Meeting. The Board started talking about wording of motions and Chapter 8 was to be worded in the motion. Stephanie asked why they were discussing Chapter 8. Phil said that it was tied together with discussions. Stephanie asked Phil how soon he saw the Minutes after the last Board Meeting. Phil said that he didn’t see the Minutes, “I was told what happened but I was present long enough to hear the back and forth and realized there was a twist.”

Pat Cannon made a motion that the Light Board advises the Light Department to enter into an agreement with the Town of Hull for a 20-year term for land at Hull Wind II. A 20-year term that has a total value of \$600,000 with final payment of \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2012. David Irwin seconded the motion. Voted 3-1 in favor. Motion carried. Yea Joe DiVito, Jr. David Irwin and Pat Cannon. Nay Stephanie Landry.

Joe DiVito made a motion that upon ratification of a 20-year agreement with the Town of Hull the Board will not go to 2011 Town Meeting with Warrant Article. David Irwin seconded the motion. Stephanie Landry sustained. Voted 3-0-1 in favor. Motion carried.

David Irwin made an addendum to the Motion that he would like it in 30 days.

New Business

The Board agreed to reschedule the Meeting of 02/24/11 to the week before on 02/17/11.

David asked about the paint smell. Dick explained that the day they were painting the garage Bill Souza came in around 4:00 in the afternoon and said that the work conditions were unhealthy. The following morning Deborah Gibbons the Shop Steward came in and said the conditions were unacceptable. Dick said that he closed the office and Janis and he stayed.

Approval of Minutes

David Irwin made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 12/02/10 Meeting. Joe DiVito seconded the motion. Voted 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.

David Irwin made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 10/28/10 Meeting. Joe DiVito seconded the motion. Voted 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Items for Discussion

Joe suggested that they discuss topics for next Agenda. Manager's Report and Review Agreement.

Phil advised the Board not to hit "reply" when sending e-mails. "Send individual e-mails to individual members. You can send a copy of a letter to all Board Members but you can't start going into discussion on it."

Pat said that they should formulate discussions about Solar, "We should have a policy in place if we start having 200 people in Town getting into Solar."

Adjournment

Pat Cannon made a motion to adjourn. Joe DiVito seconded the motion. Voted 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM