

Present: Commissioners Patrick Cannon, David Irwin, Joseph DiVito, Jr. Dan Ciccariello 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 6:45 p.m.

### **Public Input**

There was no Public Input

### **Manager's Report**

N. E. Power - Dick reported that he met with our interconnect account manager from New England Power and they rode the line from Weymouth to Hull, it took approximately three hours. New England Power contracts Mass. Electric to maintain lines under 69k ours is 22k. They contract National Grid to maintain the line. He could see the conditions of the lines; he will go back to them to find out why there was no maintenance on them.

Atlantic Avenue – Dick reported that they were upgrading primary lines on Atlantic Avenue.

DAS – Dick met with people from DAS. They have to upgrade their system; if we have to do work we will be reimbursed.

Storm – Dan asked if there could be an explanation put in the paper regarding storms after power outages occur. Phil explained that Susan Ovans had it on her website. Pat said that the Board had talked about having Peter put information on his website during the last meeting. Phil said that he discussed the issue at the last Selectmen's Meeting. Hull Times had it on their website.

Rate Comparison Sheet – David was concerned with where Hull stands on the Rate Comparison Sheet. "We were towards the bottom of the list and now where above the half way point." Dick said that it wasn't that much of difference, there within \$2.00 of each other. "There is no rhyme or reason for it, with Hull everything is residential based and there is no commercial like Hingham has." David asked if Ipswich creates their own electricity and Dick told him they don't. Phil went down the list of Utilities and pointed out the variations of the size of the power plants and which had many commercial customers. Joe pointed out that Hull has to deal with a lot of salt. Dick said that it's hard to maintain that and added that everyone's power portfolio is different.

Berkshire Wind – Pat asked for an update of Berkshire Wind. Dick said that they are waiting on interconnect and they have built a portion of it.

Turbine Meetings - Dan asked if Dick had attended the meeting in Cohasset regarding turbines. Dick said that he did not attend that meeting but he had attended the one in Brewster, which involved two turbines, the same size as Hulls. Phil explained that the environment is different today then it had been before. There is more opposition, "Don't want it in my backyard, vibrations and noise. They're more problematic. There is an alliance fighting them down the Cape." Dick said that it used to be that green was good. Phil said they used to put turbines out in wide-open areas where they didn't bother anyone but now some people think that they are out of scale with the landscape; it's a matter of taste. "I don't think there is the same scale of public acceptance as there used to be." Phil told the Board about a lady in Hull that was complaining about the lights and they explained to her that it was the lights from the tower at Logan Airport. "We actually shut down the turbine in order to prove it and she appreciated it." "There is more moderate opposition now and people are looking for mitigation. They might ask if the turbine can be shut down at night or for it to be started at a certain time instead of taking it down." "There was a

couple in Falmouth that were complaining about the turbines saying that it was driving them to suicidal thoughts.”

### **Old Business – Discussion on prior vote for \$200,000 payment to Town**

The Board asked if Phil had written up the Agreement. Phil said that he was going to bring it to the Board of Selectmen in mid-March, late-March and put it into words.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Pat wanted an update on certain items in the previous Minutes.

Storm Updates - There was more discussion about putting information in the paper regarding outages. Dick said that he is leery about putting information in the Patriot Ledger because they always get it wrong. Phil talked about the reporter from Hingham that reads the Hull Times then puts the same story in the Hingham paper. Phil told the reporter that he would not talk with her unless she came to Hull to meet with him face to face.

Helicopter Flyover - Pat asked about the Helicopter survey that was discussed at the 08/25/10 Meeting. Dick said they didn't do the flyover until late October and it is difficult to see any problems. “You could have a broken cross arm, that won't show up. That's there position by doing a flyover. They can't see the problems.”

Woodshole Study - Pat asked if the Woodshole people came back. Dick said there was insufficient flow. “The Gut has 2 knots and they wanted a minimum of 3 knots.”

Project 2003 – Phil said that he is still working with the Feds to put together a conference to ask about it. “The commercial viability, it's just not there. The problem with the grant is that no one ever asked for it. The projects started backwards. The economics of it is just daunting. It started in the permitting stages instead of the feasibility studies. Someone went to the press and forced MTC into providing a grant to a Town that wasn't even a member of the MTC. The first thing you do is look at the financial consequences, does it make economic sense. No one did that.” Dan said the Board was asking if this is what the ratepayers wanted. Phil said that Dan should look at previous Light Board Minutes when the Board Members kept saying that rates are going to go down. There were elected officials making statements without documentation. Dan said, “The economics are not the only thing you look at because some people want green. Elected officials do things not just for economic reasons.” Phil said, “But if the officials say things without facts to base them on. When you get to analysis of assumptions, there were many assertions made and I can't find where they get the facts from.” David asked Phil, “If we don't go through with it which Town Meeting do we go to?” Phil replied, “If you don't go through with it, the MTC could get someone else to do it and this raises another issue if you were to have someone else do it. What would people think to have a private company do it? They can get the 30% tax credit.” Phil added, “I don't think that anyone can make four turbine structures and make any money on them.”

David Irwin made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 08/26/10 Meeting. Joe seconded the motion. Voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

David Irwin made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 09/16/10 Meeting. Joe seconded the motion. Voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

David Irwin made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 09/30/10 Meeting. Dan seconded the motion. Voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

David Irwin made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 01/27/11 Meeting. Joe seconded the motion. Dan abstained. Voted 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.

### **New Business – Hull Times Editorial dated 02/10/11**

Pat reported that he responded to the Editorial with a letter to the editor. “I felt that Susan was saying that the Board was not doing anything. I corrected her on some statements she made.” Stephanie asked if Susan was going to edit the letter. Pat said that Susan would put the letter in as is except for errors. David said, “Susan should have come to the Board. I didn’t like that the Minutes were given to her without being reviewed.” David was upset with Dan that had given the Minutes to the Editor and told Dan that he has missed more meetings than the rest of the Board. Dan said, “David you yelled at me at the October Meeting because I didn’t vote. Every time we’ve talked about it I’ve said we should change Chapter 8. I was willing to compromise and you didn’t want to. You can do anything you want to do but I’ve said we should change the statute. There should be checks and balances and the Town Manager should not be the one to decide to take money. How many time have we had this discussion and David has changed his mind which he has the right to. Joe said hiring personnel is his major reason for not wanting to change Chapter 8. “The Town Manager adds professionalism to hiring all of his staff. You’ve opened the door to changing appointees politically.” Dan said, “I thought we had an agreement then you voted against it.” David asked Dan if he was on the Board in 1992 & 1993. Dan said that he was. Pat said that Dan was the only voice of reason. Dan said there were a large group of people in the Town 17 years ago and it was not a unanimous vote.” Regarding the Minutes Dan said, “If you had not voted it down, I would not have done it.” Dan asked David if he had a problem with it. David said that he did not like to pass on Minutes until they are approved. Dick explained that Dan had asked Dick for a copy of the Minutes because he had missed the Meeting. David wanted to discuss policy regarding Minutes. Phil explained, “The Selectmen have draft minutes and then they are approved. They are not available until they are approved. Releasing minutes prematurely could release inaccurate minutes. If a Selectmen asked me for minutes because he had missed a meeting, I would say use caution. I would advise that they don’t go further until they are approved.” Phil told Dan that he had no idea if it was a fair reflection of what went on. Dan said that he saw nothing wrong with what he did. David asked how the \$15,000 Town Manager Salary got to \$35,000. Phil said that he thinks it’s gone down dramatically and even extinguished. David asked Phil how he found out about the article. Phil said that Susan saw Phil and Dick in his office around 10:00AM and said she wanted to give them a “heads up” on what she was doing. Phil asked if Susan would give them unedited equal time and she said she would. Phil added that he was surprised that an Editor would do this, “Typically you don’t see an Editor filing legislation.” “There’s nothing wrong with elected officials to stand up at Town Meeting as a resident but it’s hard to see them as such.” Joe said that he thought minutes were not public record until approval. Phil said that draft minutes are public record but I would give them caution. If I gave minutes to the press I would get it in writing. Phil said that to Dick’s credit, Dan asked for the minutes and they are public. Joe said, “I withdraw my request for policy change since we can’t do anything.”

### **Adjournment**

*David Irwin made a motion to adjourn. Joe DiVito seconded the motion. Voted 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM