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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS**

**MAY 8, 2013**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.**

**Present were: Scott Bigelow – Chairman, Chris Conway – Commissioner, Jim Whitman – Commissioner, and Brian Allen – General Manager.**

**Agenda:**

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to accept the Agenda as presented.

**Board Members:**

The Board welcomed Jim Whitman as the newly elected board member.

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to appoint Scott Bigelow as the Chairman of the Light Board and Member of the MMLDWECC Board; and appoint Chris Conway as the Clerk.

**Meeting Minutes:**

* The Board voted unanimously in favor (2-0) to accept the 04/10/13 regular meeting minutes as amended. Jim Whitman abstained from the vote.
* The Board voted unanimously in favor (2-0) to accept the 04/10/13 executive session minutes as amended, not to be released at this time. Jim Whitman abstained from the vote.

**Financial Update:**

The Board reviewed the bank balances as of May 8, 2013.

The Board reviewed the operating budget in detail. Variances were discussed. The Board acknowledged that the Wind REC revenue will be higher than anticipated in 2013 (actuals are $31K in Feb, $59K in May & $68K in August). March reflects the purchase of the jeep to be used as the new meter reading vehicle.

**Purchased Power Cost Adjustment (PPCA) Discussion:**

The Board acknowledged that the PPCA was charged to customers for three months – March @ $0.035, April @ $0.02 and May @ $0.01 to cover high wholesale energy costs. The Board voted to charge the PPCA for only 3 months and Mr. Allen stated that energy costs have dropped to a reasonable level and that there should be no need for the Board to approve a PPCA in June.

**New/Unfinished Business:**

* ***State Assistance -*** Mr. Allen received a reply from McGovern’s Office and they have requested additional information about the wind project and finances to review. McGovern’s Office has promised assistance in finding programs that PMLD may be able to take advantage of. The Board discussed the need for money and possible MA departments that could assist. Mr. Whitman stated that he contacted the Department of Energy Resources (DoER) and is waiting for a reply.
* ***Ratepayer Letter –*** Mr. Allen will work on a letter to ratepayers and the Board agreed to review it and provide input.
* ***Broadband Initiative –*** The Board acknowledged the warrant article and discussed Chapter 164 which requires the Town to establish a municipal light plant to operate a telecommunications department to manage the broadband/internet business. The Board and Mr. Allen acknowledged that the Board of Selectmen would be the acting authority over the telecommunications department. Mr. Allen shared his request to reword the article to specifically distinguish between a municipal light plant and a telecommunications department.

**At 7:00 PM Commissioner Bigelow made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing trade secrets and strategies that relate to pending litigation and contract negotiations not to return to public session. Commissioner Conway seconded the motion. All were in favor by roll call (3-0).**

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Christine Trudeau***

***Recording Secretary***