

Minutes of April 21, 2010
Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant
Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Kevin Lashua
Stan Herriott Manager
The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Commissioner Ahlin asked for a motion to accept the minutes for the March 17th 2010 meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin, the vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott reviewed the budget through March 2010. Receipts are tracking 3% above projections with expenses tracking at projected levels. Receipts were \$1,326,967 and expenses were \$1,211,927.

Manager Herriott gave copies of the latest bill for indirect costs from the town. The town has once again decided that we should pay yet another person's salary. They have added in 5% of the Town Collector's salary \$2,462.70. Manager Herriott recommended that we do not pay this. First of all the town never discussed this with the Light Department and the Town Collector's work for the Light Department is minimal. The Commissioners agreed with Manager Herriott not to pay this increased cost.

Manager Herriott opened the discussion on the annual in lieu of tax payment. He said that it is necessary for the Commissioners to consider the vote for the payment at this meeting because we will not have another scheduled meeting until after May 8th the annual town meeting. After some discussion the Commissioners agreed on reducing the payment, they agreed to once again authorize the payment of \$40,000.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlin and seconded by Commissioner Lashua. The vote was unanimous.

Manager Herriott gave a copy of Mr. Vanhoof's letter demanding that we remove the met tower from his property. Manager Herriott said that this is a result of not being able to reach an agreement with Mr. Vanhoof on a lease for a wind turbine site. Manager Herriott is making arrangements to remove the met tower from the site as soon as possible but he feels that we are not directly responsible for the road problems because that was done by the logger. Manager Herriott will work to resolve this problem.

Apparently Mr. Vanhoof is also shopping around for a better deal with another wind developer. This has led to renewed interest from First Wind to come in and develop a joint venture where we would build out the necessary infrastructure and they would construct the wind project. They would agree to let us buy output from the project through a PPA and they would then sell the rest of the power to the grid. The Commissioners were agreeable to begin this discussion and asked Manager Herriott to make arrangements for First Wind to attend the next Commissioner's meeting. Manager Herriott agreed to make this arrangement.

Manager Herriott presented the employee's benefits requests, most of the discussion centered on the post retirement healthcare request. The Commissioners agreed to have the attorneys take another look at the possibilities of having the Light Department pay post retirement healthcare. After that answer is known we will then consider the other requests on the table for the next two years. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Manager Herriott brought the Commissioners up to date on the two solar projects. At the public safety building we are looking at changing the mounting structure to allow the collectors to act as a car port for the police cruisers. This will add very little cost to the project and it will not result in any change in the projected output of the project, and will result in a dual purpose project. On the Oakmont solar project we are waiting for the roof loading design which we expect to have by the end of this week April 23rd. Once this is finalized then we can begin construction on the project. The hope is the project will be completed by early summer.

Berkshire Wind Membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday. At that meeting a definitive decision will be made on how to move the project forward. Much of this

discussion will be held in executive session, so to the extent possible the Manager will keep the Commissioners informed as to the results of the outcome of the meeting.

Also on the Berkshire Wind MMWEC is moving forward with the long term financing. When the financing is complete we will be refunded the interest payments we have been making since the first of the year. The interest payments are in the area of \$38,000.00 per month.

Stony Brook 3 Project is still moving forward but there has been no present update for the project. Joint ownership is still an issue.

Manager Herriott asked if the Commissioners had completed their on line training for the State Ethics Commission. Commissioners Lashua has still not completed the training.

There was no executive session needed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Richard Ahlin,
Secretary