

Minutes of November 10, 2010

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Mark Carlisle & Kevin Lashua

Stan Herriott Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

People in Attendance :

Kevin Soucy, Great Northern Electric Company, representatives for his investment partners, Investor Redevelopment. Mike Lynch, Ed Kaczinski, (from MMWEC) Dave Colombo from Consulting Engineers, Ashburnham Municipal Light Plants Engineering Company, Geoffrey Evancic, Solar Developer and Caitlyn Kelleher Reporter New Editor Community Journal,

The regular session minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and voted. A motion was made by Commissioner Lashua and seconded by Commissioner Carlisle. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ahlin opened the meeting with introductions since we had a large group. The meeting opened with a draft presentation by Great Northern Electric and their idea to install a 5 MW solar photovoltaic field on Mr. and Mrs. Wright's property. As this idea was more conceptual at this time, questions were more of a general nature, such as the qualifications and experience of the contractor and his financial partners. Manager Herriott also explained the limitations of the electric circuit with regard to large behind the meter alternate energy projects. Manager Herriott went on to say that some of the reason for this was the long planned Ashburnham Wind Project for Blood Hill which would be served off the same circuit. Too much renewable could cause lights to flicker because of the intermittent nature of the resource. Great Northern Electric seemed to understand the issues and understood the need for flexibility in sizing the project. They thanked the Commissioners for allowing them to make this presentation and asked what else they needed to do to move forward. The Commissioners and Manager Herriott felt that the issues needed to be resolved involved with the circuit limitations. We would ask our engineers to complete an analysis so we could properly size the renewable energy project going forward. The Representatives from Great Northern left the meeting and there was some further discussion on the need for the Study.

Chairman Ahlin invited Mr. Geoffrey Evancic in to discuss his proposal for the solar project, which would also be on the same circuit as the first proposal and the wind project. Manager Herriott explained that he has asked Mr. Geoffrey Evancic to come to the meeting to discuss his ideas concerning a 2 MW solar Project on his property. Again this was just a general discussion, covering items such as his plan to construct, maintain a 2 MW solar array over a 30

year period and to sign a PPA agreement with AMLP for the output of the system. His plan included using proven components which he expected to be Hyundai inverters and panels.

The Commissioners and Manager Herriott discussed the same concerns that were discussed with Great Northern Electric regarding the loading of renewable energy on the circuit and that there would likely be some limitation. Mr. Geoffrey Evancic expressed, although his first choice was to use his property on Ashby Road, he would discuss the possibilities of using other properties that he has access to. There was general discussion as to the price of power which Mr. Geoffrey Evancic and tentatively agreed to 5 cents per Kwh for the first 10 years the system was in service then escalating going out. He asked the Commissioners just what he had to do to move this project forward and again the Commissioners stated that it was really in our court to complete a detailed study to ascertain the electrical characteristic of the AMLP system to insure this project coupled with the other renewable projects would work.

Mr. Geoffrey Evancic thanked the Commissioners and left the meeting.

There was some discussion with regard to the ability to accommodate all these projects and how to choose. Manager Herriott said that he had contacted the attorneys and that they felt that if we were to sign a PPA with someone that the laws covering PPA's did not require a bid process. One was to pick only the lowest cost overall. Discussion continued as to the order the projects came into view. The Wright farm was the first to consider followed by Cushing and Mr. Evancic. Manager Herriott stated while he knew Cushing was interested he had not heard anything from their developer for a couple months. He also stated that he had the idea after speaking with their developer that their financial backing was in question.

The Commissioners and the Manager finished the topic by asking the engineers and the MMWEC power supply people to take a look at this and formulate some opinion on just how to get this done. The possibility of bundling this into a MMWEC project with participation of other Municipal Electric Systems was also discussed.

Before the MMWEC representatives left they gave an update of the Stoneybrook 3 project and the Berkshire Winds project to the Commissioners.

In other business Manager Herriott said that AMLP had been awarded a \$55,000.00 grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to do a feasibility study to further develop the planned, project on Blood Hill.

The Budget through October was presented and discussed; the Manager stated the only unusual issues were the several large truck repairs for last month; however the overall budget for equipment repairs remained below the projections.

Manager Herriott gave the Commissioners a copy of the draft for the 2011 budget, and asked the Commissioner to review it for the next meeting, when it will have to be voted.

Manager Herriott discussed NYPA Power Project and pointed out that while the power we receive from the Hydro project is still a bargain at just over 3 cents per kwh, the transmission cost is continuing to grow and is now generally higher than the cost of the power.

The Manager expenses were approved for \$30.79.

Manager Herriott also introduced the idea of doing a loan program with our local banks to allow customers to take a loan to do energy efficient improvements to their homes and AMLP would cover the cost of the interest on the loan, this idea is similar to what the investor owned companies are doing through MASSAVE. Manager Herriott said that we receive many calls about this type of program.

Manager Herriott presented fliers to be inserted in the bills for two events the Jordyn Kalagher Scholarship Benefit day and the Ashburnham Historical Society event. The Commissioners agreed that these were appropriate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle to adjourn at 9:05 P.M. seconded by Commissioner Ahlin. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Carlisle

Secretary