

Minutes of January 19th, 2011

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Mark Carlisle and Kevin Lashua

Stan Herriott Manager

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Ahlin opened the meeting with a review of the Minutes from the December 15th meeting. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin the vote was unanimous. Commissioner Lashua abstained due to the fact he was not in attendance at the December 15th meeting.

At this point during the meeting the representatives from AXIO arrived. Present were Nicola Doss and Bill Jordan. Ms. Doss and Mr. Jordan handed out a folder introducing AXIO and gave an overview of their business model and how the model may work to establish a relationship with Ashburnham Light. Manager Herriott opened the discussion on where the Light Department stood with the solar and wind development. The items discussed were locating large solar arrays on parcels of private property adjacent to the transmission line, as well as other sites on private property with access to a 3 phase service. There was also a discussion on locating a system on the towns old dump site. The general discussion, lead to the current situation with grants and subsidies. AXIO's preference was to look at private property rather than public. They felt that construction on private property would be faster than the RFP process which is required when using public property. After further discussion about possible terms of contracts and ranges of costs Ms. Doss said that AXIO would consider preparing a memorandum of the understanding between Ashburnham Light and AXIO. This would further the process. The Commissioners agreed. Manager Herriott asked if they would like to meet with the property owners that are interested in the project. Ms. Doss and Mr. Jordan agreed that would be the next step. Manager Herriott offered to introduce the company to the interested property owners.

The discussion reached a conclusion with the next step being AXIO attempting to set aside time next week and begin meeting with the landowners and prepare a MOU.

Commissioner Lashua left the meeting at 4:05 P.M.

A discussion began about the town's proposal of wanting to combine the accounts of the Light Department with the town accounts. Manager Herriott felt the town is getting poor advice from their accountants, with regard to the control of funds attributed to the Light Departments earnings. Manager Herriott went on to say that he was preparing a letter which would clarify the issues with the town having control of Light Department funds. The Commissioners agreed with the position Manager Herriott was taking.

The 2010 budget through December was emailed to the Commissioners earlier this month. Manager Herriott reported that the total cash receipts for 2010 were \$5,072,165.00 and expenses of \$ 4,591,677.00. The net being \$480,488.00. Manager Herriott then went on to explain that we were coming close to the amount of monies we can earn on an annual basis. This is due to lower than expected electrical costs. Manager Herriott said that there is a possibility that we may have to return some of the monies to the customers once the accountants have confirmed the sales numbers. Manager Herriott said that this has happened to several municipalities this year. The way they handled this was to increase the prompt payment discount for a couple of months. This would get the monies back in the hands of the rate payers sooner.

Manager Herriott reviewed the lighting of the car port at the Public Safety Building with the Commissioners. The work was performed by Olivari Electric who was the lowest bidder. Chief Barrett sent along a thank you letter.

Manager Herriott said the library was interested in our old computers. Manager Herriott said the computers would be good for access to the internet and he felt that the library would be a good place for them. The Commissioners agreed and Manager Herriott mentioned he would ensure that all sensitive information would be removed from the computers.

Manager Herriot handed out a package of two graphs representing the last three years of electric sales both for kilowatt hours and dollars for the Commissioners information.

Manager Herriott mentioned he was going to submit to the town the Light Department's portion of the Town Annual Report. Manager Herriott sent this out to the Commissioners a week ago, just in case there were any changes the Commissioners wanted to make. The Commissioners felt the report was sufficient and needed no further editing.

Manager Herriott submitted his expenses for the month in the amount of \$273.02. The amount was approved.

The next meeting is to be held Wednesday February 16th, 2011 at 24 Williams Road.

There was no executive session held.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Carlisle and seconded by Commissioner Ahlin the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Carlisle

Secretary