

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board
Conference Room 24 Williams Road
Ashburnham, MA 01430

Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2017

Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Chairman
Mark Carlisle, Vice Chairman
Sarah Davis, Clerk

AMLP Manager: Michael Rivers

Others in attendance: Anne Olivari, Jane Dancause, Jeremy Holmes Jeffrey Schrecke and Jordan Gendron.

Meeting was called to order by Ahlin at 6:30 pm with a roll call vote. Ahlin present, Carlisle present and Davis present. Ahlin announced meetings are subject to audio and video recording.

A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Carlisle and seconded by Davis. All Commissioners voted in favor of approving amended agenda. Ahlin, aye, Carlisle aye and Davis aye. Amendment to agenda was adding discussion of Rivers contract under Executive session.

Manager's report and updates:

- a. Manager's expenses-none.
- b. Auditors will be back on January 24th.
- c. Rivers said state is having hearings on revised clean energy programs. He plans to attend on in Worcester on February 8th. This is being driven by MEAM.
- d. It/computers- When the swap over for NDS was to be done a new server was required. Rivers purchased thru Dell (third server).
- e. Telephone system- Rivers has an updated quote, believes he will be ordering next week. Delivery time should be two weeks. Company is BCS out of Worcester.
- f. Cushing Academy- Confirmed details and stated there was a three month delay, should be ready for the first week in April. The transformer is on order.
- g. National grid switching- More switching was done on MLK day and there was an issue so did not do the switch back as first planned.
- h. MMWEC is reviewing again the 2015A. Question as to do we get refunded on the project if we don't join per their advice. Pilgrim generation is done. MMWEC claims it will not be affecting our profile as it was taken into consideration.
- i. Court ruling on a customer who stole power and issued bad checks was found guilty. Customer is in custody on other charges. He was to pay and

- court acknowledged he hasn't paid on account. This case has been on going for longer than a year. Court to keep AMLP posted on case.
- j. Town Administrator wants to know the Pilot amount. Amount planned is \$67639.30 subject to the audit. Amount is calculated per kwh sold and that amount has been decreasing per customer with energy savings.
 - k. OPEB study for a three years period was planned for spring. It has been contracted and should be done within the week.
 - l. WCR meeting that Rivers attended gave figures for increases, auditor was also there. Rivers stated some municipals are doing estimates. Ashburnham's increase is 11.37% based on data given by the town.
 - m. Town treasurer is looking into post retirement rates which need to be better defined, dealing with family rate vs single.
 - n. Bucket truck- should have drawings ready for the end of the month. Rivers and linemen to go and review in early February.
 - o. Storage grant- no response yet.
 - p. Warrant was out for signing last weekend.
 - q. MMWEC schedule for yearend should be in shortly. All will be in by February 28th.
 - r. HELPS program has been updated for 2017.

Employee attendance awards- Rivers presented the list of employees to receive awards. Davis expressed an issue with a salaried employee receiving award. A motion was made by Carlisle to place it on hold and revisit the policy in February. Davis seconded. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Discussion made note that benefit had actually been paid on the last warrant.

Rivers brought up a change in the short term and long term disability policy. Short term was to start at 7 days instead of 90 and long term would start at 90 instead of 180 days. Dancause asked if this would change sick day allotment. Ahlin said this change in benefit would need to be discussed in Executive session as collective bargaining would be involved.

Pole billing-Rivers finishing up, it will be done. It is a five-year contract with Verizon.

Ahlin asked about a billing issue that was mentioned in the last meeting. Rivers stated the Town was paid the direct cost of payroll and materials for the intersection project.

Ahlin inquired about the L & G meter problem last month. Rivers stated it was resolved and that it was an update issue.

Rivers stated the Town wants to use our postage and folding machine. Postage is not going to be allowed as the request was too late in month to

load additional postage. AMLP would help with the folding, stuffing and sealing, the postage would be handled at town hall.

Mass Public records- Changed in January of 2017 and now each agency need to designate a Record Access Officer. Carlisle made a motion that the General Manager of AMLP be appointed as Record Access Officer. Davis seconded. The vote was unanimous. Ahlin, aye, Carlisle aye and Davis aye.

Operating Budget- Rivers constructed it based on past years. It would be reviewed and voted on in February.

Rivers stated new customers numbers are up, houses being built and empty houses are being renovated and occupied.

Capital budget- Rivers stated no change. He has been thru budget with Brackett. Rivers feels it is reasonable. Storage would be a large variable if something was to happen there.

Rivers brought up abandoning the compact fluorescent recycling program we presently have at AMLP. He questioned if we want to continue the program as it was costing AMLP to dispose of them. Discussion as to the present program, purchasing a five-gallon bucket for around \$80.00 and when it was filled it was mailed to center and recycled. In the past the number of buckets per year has been low, possibly two a year. Carlisle wanted to continue with program, Commissioners agreed it was a good program to offer customers for safe disposal of CFB. Program is to continue.

Ahlin asked how does AMLP handle a transformer that was damaged and possibly could leak. A brief description followed on the procedure for containing and recycling/removal of a transformer by Holmes, Schrecke and Gendron.

Minutes of December 21, 2017 were reviewed. Carlisle made a few minor changes. A motion to accept the Minutes as amended was made by Carlisle and seconded by Davis. Vote was taken. Ahlin aye, Carlisle aye and Davis aye.

February 15, 2017 at 6:30 pm was set for the meeting date. Items on agenda will include attendance award and budget.

A motion to adjourn regular session meeting to do into executive session to discuss items under M.G.L. Chapter 30A section 21a and the following clauses: 3 To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation (IBEW) 10. To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively –sensitive or other proprietary information provided in the course of activities conducted by a governmental body as an energy supplier. Section 2 to discuss contract of a non-union employee (general managers contract). They would only open in regular session to adjourn.

Motion made by Carlisle, seconded by Davis. Vote was taken Ahlin, aye, Carlisle aye and Davis aye. Motion carried at 7:30 pm.

Sarah Davis, Clerk