

Open Session Minutes of June 4 , 2014

Meeting of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Board

Present Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Mark Carlisle & Stan Herriott, Manager

Absent: Commissioner Kevin Lashua

Chairman Ahlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The first item on the agenda was the Manager Herriott's retirement at the end of July, and the need to get the job advertisement out in the public domain. The Commissioners agreed that the samples of the job advertisement that Manager Herriott had sent out would be acceptable and directed the Manager to begin to get the job posted. Manager Herriott said he would post it on our Web site and ask NEPPA to post it on their Web site. He will also place an advertisement in in the Gardner news next week. Manager Herriott has also set up a mail box the Commissioners have access to so they can review the applications. The email box is as follows:

(gmsearchcommittee@amlp.org) The Commissioners asked Manager Herriott if he was sure he still wanted to retire. Manager Herriott stated he was ready.

The Manager Herriott presented the budget through May. We are running about \$150,000.00 dollars in the negative. At this point in the year it is not so unusual to be coming out of the winter in the negative. However, we have never been this high before.

Manager Herriott brought up the fact that we have put off a rate increase for many years but the time has come to increase the rate. Manager Herriott stated that he has reviewed the situation and he is recommending that we raise the residential rates by .0025 cents per kilowatt hour and the commercial/ industrial rates by .005 cents per kilowatt hour July 2014. Also, a proposed rate increase for the same amount for July of 2015. Manager Herriott feels between the proposed rate increase and the savings from the new solar project we are experiencing it should lead to a balanced budget for 2015. Manager Herriott stated he would be sending out a press release next week and letters to our commercial/industrial customers as well.

Manager Herriott did not have any expenses for the month of May.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 16 , 2014. However, there may be a need to meet sooner due to the expected interviews for prospective candidates for the new Manager. If needed, the additional meetings will be posted accordingly.

Manager Herriott reported the meter project is still moving forward and we just received the contract. We will be working on signing the contract.

Manager Herriott recommended that we only use one load of poles this summer then consider another load this fall. This would allow crews to catch up on the back log of pole transfers and removals, rather than become further behind due to vacations throughout the summer and being short one line worker due to Don Bisbee's retirement.

Manager Herriott also reported that Jeremey has taken his hydraulic test and we are waiting to see if he passed.

The Comcast billing dispute is still in the process at the DPU. Comcast has agreed to pay us the undisputed amount of about \$16,000.00 of the more than \$55,000.00 they still owe us. They are questioning our pole count and have indicated they would like to meet with us to discuss the situation. We will be waiting to hear back from them.

Manager Herriott reported the LED street lighting project should be completed by the end of next week. Providing we have good weather.

Chairman Ahlin asked for motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carlisle, Chairman Ahlin call for the roll call vote.

Chairman Ahlin (Aye)

Commissioner Carlisle (Aye)

The meeting entered Executive Session at 8:00 P. M.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:15 P. M.

Chairman Ahlin announced discussions in Executive Session were complete. The Commissioners have agreed to wage increases: 3% on 7-1-2014, 3% on 7-1-2015, and 3% on 7-1-2016. They have also agreed to increase the lineworkers boot allowance by \$25.00 annually.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Carlisle

Secretary