

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board
Conference Room 24 Williams Rd.
Ashburnham, MA 01430

Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2017

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

AMLP Manager: Michael Rivers

Others attendees: Anne Olivari, Jane Dancause, Brooke Czasnowski, Jeremy Holmes, Jeffrey Schrecke and Jordon Gendron.

Heather Budrewicz, Eric Deshayes and Kyle Johnson of the IT Committee were in attendance from 7pm to end of their presentation.

Meeting was called to order by Ahlin with a roll call vote at 6:32 pm. Ahlin present, Carlisle present and Davis present. Ahlin stated all meeting are subject to video and audio recording.

A motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Carlisle, seconded by Davis. All Commissioners voted in favor of accepting agenda as written.

Manager's reports and updates: Rivers presented expenses for his telephone and mileage. His mileage was for time when company vehicle was having brake work done.

Rivers stated the warrant was last weekend. Upgrade is done there was a small issue with the Crystal reports that as used for month end reports.

Cushing Academy is all in on job being done, AMLP just waiting for the check which is in the mail. Cushing donor wants to look into placing electric underground. Some discussion as to if a deposit would be required, involving Verizon and Comcast an engineer would be needed.

Rivers mentioned AMLP would be part the "touch a truck" program at the Library on June 26th.

Community Day is June 24th, AMLP is providing the tent, tables and chairs.

The LED lights have been done on our building interior and exterior.

The new telephone system is finished and the lines sound clearer.

The old equipment will be placed on the state auction site after all have been wiped clean of any data.

The Altec bucket is expected in August, it is in production, the meeting went well.

On April 13, 2017 there is a Central Mass Managers meeting.

Rivers stated we never heard on the old storage grant application but we hope to hear on the new one.

Upcoming events: April 17th Patriot's Day
April 18th Fire alarm testing
April 21st payroll, ECNE meeting
April 25th First aid training.
May annual filing
May 2nd Town Meeting
May 4-5th is MMWEC meeting
May 17th Managers' meeting
May 18th Underground distribution and training

Old business:

No update on contract issues, no changes to operating budget, next meeting for union negotiations is the 14th.

Search committee is still collecting resumes. The closing date is April 28th. Next meeting is scheduled for April 24th.

Potential expansion of town fiber optic data lines to municipal buildings: a brief presentation was given by Heather Budrewicz the Town Administrator, Eric Deshayes the Technical Coordinator for the schools and Kyle Johnson member of the Committee. Desire to run the fiber optic from the Public Safety Building to the DPW Park Grounds building, and to AMLP, possibly to the schools, substation and location of proposed future DPW garage and offices. The benefits and costs were discussed. This project would also need to include Verizon. Discussion as to number of sections of poles to be involved was to be possibly 15 sections. The time line is next year. The work would be partially funded through a grant. A good working number would be 60k. Budrewicz is to get back to the Board the end of May to give an update and hopefully a clearer cost of the project. The police said it would certainly help with the cameras and images being received. After their presentation the group left the meeting.

MMWEC has offered an orientation program to municipals as to their function and roles. This program is offered to Commissioners.

Rivers mentioned with the decorative poles in the center of town being damaged and did the Board want to purchase additional ones for stock. The question was asked as to when we would be receiving payment from National Grid for the substation switching. Rivers response was this was the first billing to National Grid so no timeline was established.

Approval of Minutes from the March 15, 2017 meeting:

Davis made a motion to approve as written, Carlisle seconded. All Commissioners voted in favor to accept.

Review of revised Manager job description. Carlisle stated he had some minor changes to description with Ed Vitone. Commissioners reviewed the description. Davis made a motion to accept the revised Manager's job description. Ahlin seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of revised description.

Manager's vacation time: Ahlin stated per counsel advice the item was to be discussed in open session. Vacation carry over vs part of severance package. Rivers was told vacation time was to be taken and asked if he had a number for hours due him. Rivers stated the auditors noted 618.6 hours due thru the end of 2016, he said this was vacation only. The NDS payroll sheet based on April was at 632 hours. Commissioners stated if it was off a day or so it could be added on at the end. There was some discussion as to cash buy out of time. Ahlin said it was "fulfillment of contract", Rivers disagreed. Carlisle made a motion to have vacation leave begin on April 19, 2017. Davis seconded. A vote was taken. Ahlin aye, Carlisle aye and Davis aye.

Next meeting schedules for May 17, 2017 at 6:30 pm

No items were listed for future agenda.

Carlisle made a motion to adjourn the regular session meeting to go into executive session under M.G. L. Chapter 30A: Section 21a and the following clauses: (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel: (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have detrimental effect on bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares: (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 a energy supplier under a license granted by the department of public utilities pursuant to section 1F of Chapter 164, in the course of activities conducted as a municipal aggregator under section 134 of said chapter 164 or in the course of activities conducted by a cooperative consisting of governmental entities organized pursuant to section 136 of said chapter 164, when such governmental body, municipal aggregator or cooperative determines that such disclosure will adversely affect its ability to conduct business in relation to other entities making selling or distributing electric power and energy. Return to open session only to adjourn. Davis seconded. Ahlin aye, Carlisle aye and Davis aye. Adjourned open session at 7:40 pm

Sarah Davis, Clerk