

**ASHBURNHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT
REGULAR SESSION
Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 3, 2015
Location: 24 Williams Road, Ashburnham, MA Conference Room
Board Members: Richard Ahlin (Ahlin) Chairman
Mark Carlisle (Carlisle) Secretary
Kevin Lashua (Lashua) absent
AML Staff: Michael Rivers (Rivers) General Manager
Attendees: Candace Wright-minutes, Jane Dancause, Matt Wilson,

Chairman Ahlin opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were presented; April 30, 2013 (Regular Meeting); May 15, 2013 (Regular Meeting); June 4, 2014 (Regular Meeting); July 16, 2014 Regular Meeting); July 23, 2014 (Regular and Executive Meeting); October 15, 2014 (Regular Meeting); December 4, 2014 (Regular Meeting).

The minutes of the following meeting were amended: August 4, 2014 (Regular and Executive Meeting).

Motion to accept minutes as presented was made by Carlisle. 2nd by Ahlin. Vote: Unanimous

Complaint by Richard Coughlin of 40 Watatic Pont Road about neighbor's street lighting

Mr. Richard Coughlin attended meeting to voice complaint regarding neighbor's street light is too bright and is causing "light trespass" onto his property. Site was inspected by both Rivers, Carlisle and Ahlin. Rivers noted that lights are approximately 130 feet from Coughlin's property and downhill. 100 watt bulbs were replaced last fall with 50 watt bulbs of similar lumen output. Rivers presented board with a letter from Florence Criscuolo the neighbor who states that the lights have been in their present locations since the 1950's with no complaints. She is upset that the lights keep getting vandalized by being shot out, painted over, and covered. She wants the police to prosecute the issue. Rivers contacted some of the other neighbors who have no issues with the lights. Mr. Coughlin admitted that he did enter on Criscuolo's property to tape covers over the lights, but denied otherwise vandalizing them. Coughlin bought his house in 2006 and now wants complete darkness in his area of the neighborhood except for his own lights, some of which operate on motion sensors. Rivers said that both Criscuolo and Coughlin have confirmed that Coughlin has never spoken to Criscuolo about the light issue. Coughlin is unwilling to pay to relocate the light poles if Criscuolo were to agree to have us move them.

Determination: street light is a private light rented from AMLP. AMLP has no jurisdiction regarding this matter as it is a civic issue. It was suggested by the Manager and Board members that Mr. Coughlin discuss this matter with neighbor to determine if a mutually agreeable solution could be agreed upon.

Manager's Report

The following items were brought to the board's attention:

- a. Vandalism of meters and transformers during Summer of 2014; AMLP will receive restitution for materials to repair (\$2700)
- b. Thank you letter from Salvation Army for employee bell ringing December 2014
- c. MMWEC Rate Comparison, we are comparatively low in rates
- d. Invitation to participate in Town of Ashburnham's 250th Anniversary Celebration

- e. State report regarding need for additional natural gas pipeline capacity
- f. 50th anniversary of NEPPA is next August.
- g. Sales tax audit will be forthcoming
- h. AMLP undergoing annual audit; will be completed within next month
- i. Update on Transmission meeting with NGrid representatives
- j. Distributed Generation Project in Westminster
- k. Meeting with MMWEC regarding bond financing was cancelled
- l. Discussed timeline for acquisition of new information system, billing and accounting system, purchase of new computers; ~ 2- 3 year project
- m. Possible future outsourcing of bill printing and mailing.
- n. Meter change-over process

FY 2015 Budget Discussion and Financials

Manager Rivers presented a preliminary budget to the AMLP Board for FY2015. Preliminary budget is \$37,000 less than FY2014 budget. Decreases due to replication of items in past budget as well in savings in fuel costs. A previously voted 3% increase in wages, benefits and related expenses was noted.

Discussion regarding funding of new computers and a new bucket truck through a Bond or as a Capital Expense. An Energy Audit of the AMLP will be conducted in near future.

Motion: to accept the budget was made by Carlisle. 2nd by Ahlin. Vote: Unanimous

Future Agenda Items and Schedule Next Board Meeting

- a. Audit
- b. Budget
- c. Rate Study MMWEC – Billing costs
- d. RFQ for meters
- e. Street lighting rates
- f. Participation in Ashburnham 250th Anniversary
- g. Job Descriptions
- h. “Stand by” Policy

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting was made at 7:45 pm by Carlisle. 2nd by Ahlin, Vote: Unanimous

The next general meeting will be at 6:00 pm on March 18, 2015, in AMLP Conference Room.

_____ Date _____

Mark Carlisle
Secretary