

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2017

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman
Chuck Clinch
Tim Houten
Jim Carbone
Michael Cloutier, Manager
Andrew Sheehan, Town Administrator

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:05PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the agenda as written. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to accept the minutes of July 19, 2017 with amendments. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Tim Houten motioned to accept the executive session minutes of July 19, 2017 with amendments. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Amendments: Change Chairman Twiss motions to read Tim Houten.

Financial PPA:

Tracking is normal through July. We are starting to deviate from 2016. Total power costs are \$0.01 higher in July and \$0.005 higher overall YTD than 2016. This is due to the increased capacity costs. The ISO Interchange has doubled. Also, the \$61,500 for Nextera Capacity is no longer being paid out. The 10 megawatts are no longer in the contract and are now at the market rate of \$10.91 through May 30, 2018. June cash reserve down \$700k from 2016 due to payment for the Danvers ROW. Cash is also down because we used some cash for the ROW payment. June interest income was \$21,837.45. We are also about \$75k higher in purchase power costs than 2016. July interest income is down. Reserve accounts are lower than in 2016. Purchased power costs are \$70k - \$75k more expensive than 2016. YTD purchased power costs

are about \$300k more expensive. 2018 capacity payments will be lower than but not as low as in the past. Year runs from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018. The capacity costs will be about 50% lower in future years. We should still show a net profit for 2017 as we will be receiving about \$860k in bond payments from Seabrook.

Manager's Report:

MELD crew was one of 28 crews from NEPPA sent to Florida for storm work on September 10th. The call went out from the APPA mutual aid program. The crew is on their way home today. They received good reviews and there were no injuries.

The two generators at Sharpners Pond Road were removed September 7, 2017. We did not get the capacity peak. Ultimately it will be a net loss for MELD. It was a good experience even though it did not work out as expected.

Remphos finished product has been delivered. Mr. Cloutier and Bernie tested the prototype and returned it to Remphos with a list of changes that MELD wanted. They made the changes and returned the finished product. It will now be as easy as the Evluma product to install. There is currently no lead for the 321 ordered.

Mr. Cloutier and Chairman Twiss had a meeting with the FinCom incoming chairman Toni Mertz, outgoing chairman Steve Cocciardi and Andy Sheehan. Meeting was cordial and they wanted to introduce Ms. Mertz. Part of the conversation revolved around the Town meeting warrant that addresses MELD's authority to raise and spend their own money. Mr. Cloutier stated that MELD operates under Chapter 164 section of the law. Our rates are revenue and not taxed based so there is no need to have a warrant voted on at Town meeting.

Mr. Cloutier revisited some of the potential solar projects in Town. The Ralph Digiorgio project had to back out as the numbers were not there. The Richardson project was looked at but it did not qualify for the S-Recs program and was dropped. Mr. Cloutier then spoke with Tim Flynn whom was instrumental with the solar project in Groveland. Mr. Flynn was also involved on projects in Holyoke and Chicopee. He came up with the idea of a community solar model that will qualify for S-Recs. Participants would sign up to be in the program. We are developing the model program. Holyoke has already done three projects so it already passed at the DOER. It is a vetted program. Mr. Cloutier met with Andy, Brad and Ryan and they are supportive of the pilot project. Mr. Cloutier then met with Tim Flynn and Jared Haines. Mr. Haines will bring the project together and he has the developers who will do the project. We will need to get authority at Town meeting for the Town to enter into a pilot with the developer. The warrant article that was written for the 2016 Town meeting will be reused. Mr. Cloutier thinks it is good for the Town and the Town will get the pilot payment. Also, community solar gets about 10% more in S-Recs. Project needs to be completed by May 2018.

During Mr. Cloutier's meeting with Andy and Ryan he was asked about the ROW purchase. Ryan wanted to know if there had been any discussion at MELD regarding the bike path. Mr.

Cloutier suggested we include this discussion on a future agenda. Danvers has not got back to MELD regarding the three parcels removed from the ROW purchase.

The donation of the AEDs around Town has brought up some legal ramifications. Mr. Cloutier spoke with Deidre Lawrence and she wrote up a purchase and sale agreement for a \$1. She also included wording waiving all liability and warrantee pertaining to the AEDs.

NEPPA Linemen Rodeo was cancelled in September but they are looking at new dates.

No additional requests for mutual aid have been received.

Next meeting October 18, 2017.

Motion:

Tim Houten made a motion to adjourn at 6:20PM. Jim Carbone seconded motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

**James Carbone
Clerk**