

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2018

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman
Tim Houten
Jim Carbone
Michael Cloutier, Manager

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:01PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve agenda as written. Jim Carbone seconded motion. Motion carried 3-0

Approval of Minutes:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the minutes of July 18, 2018 as written. Jim Carbone seconded motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Financial PPA:

The YTD monthly average power cost is coming down. It is now \$0.102, down \$0.0125 from the beginning of the year. We will continue to see the cost \$0.08 to \$0.10 for the next few months. The HG Solar cost per KWH was \$0.058 in July. We got almost a million KWHs in July. They had a problem with weeds growing over the panels. The contractor is taking care of it at no cost to MELD. The system hit a peak on August 29, 2018 at 6:00PM. Solar was running at 1.2 megawatts which is not as much as we had hoped. This should be a \$125K savings next year. The July 5th peak was over 2 megawatts.

Income Statement did better this month with a \$403,436.46 net income. August numbers will get us in the black for the year. Interest income YTD still showing a loss but we should break even by end of year.

Variance report shows G/L account 933, Transportation Expenses, was up. This was the result of truck maintenance and repairs. Truck 3 had a bad fuel tank and truck 1 needed brakes. There were also charges for a heater coil and tires. Truck 3 is being replaced with the new bucket truck currently being spec'd out.

The Balance Sheet shows cash is still good. Operating Cash is \$2,203,860.58. Our Fund Accounts total \$9,652,385.07. We have made some changes to the breakdown of the investments which will be beneficial.

Mr. Cloutier met with Jared Haines regarding the batteries. Initial proposal was not impressive with yearly fixed payments of \$348K and MELD paying \$60K operating costs. The average savings over 20 years may have been about \$85K per year. Mr. Haines felt we were not taking any risk but Mr. Cloutier stated our risk begins when the contract is signed. We would then be responsible for 20 years of substantial payments. Mr. Cloutier also spoke with Tim Flynn about how we can structure a deal so we will have some equity. We could become part owners or enter into a prepaid lease agreement. Mr. Haines is going to get back to us with another proposal.

Manager's Report:

We have spec'd out the new bucket truck. We got a quote from Source Well which meets all the bidding laws. We have made some minor changes to the chassis and we are waiting for the new quote. The lead time is about 330 to 360 days. The order should be placed by the next meeting. It will be in next year's budget.

We recently signed an agreement with ENE to supply us with our residential conservation services. They will do the reporting to the DOER which has increased their mandatory reporting. The DOER is going to start enforcing the money amount we are required to spend on conservation services. The ENE contract services include the electrical vehicle program, the education and awareness programs and the program to offer rebates on heat pumps and programmable thermostats.

Massachusetts Conservation Awareness Network, MCAN, has a goal for MLP's to have 100% renewable energy. They are aggressive and have gotten members elected to municipal electric boards because they realize we do have local control. ENE met with them and they are requesting information. They want to know what our plans are, what our portfolio looks like and what our programs are so they can create score cards for each municipality. It appears these score cards will be used to pit municipalities against each other. ENE agreed to put something together that MCAN can use. MCAN had three members attend the MEAM meeting today. They were from three municipal electric commissioner boards.

Mapping company is almost done. They are currently back in Town. We need to send a crew with them to open some manholes. Once the mapping is completed we will need to make sure we keep it up to date.

Linemen's Rodeo is tomorrow. We are sending two crews. Ken Rollins is going as one of the judges.

Mr. Houten brought up the fact that the Main Street Grill is selling. He wanted to make Mr. Cloutier aware so that there would not be an unpaid bill. Mr. Cloutier will let Cheryl know.

We are doing tree trimming and may get some help from Valley Tree. We need to get the job done by winter.

Next meeting: October 17, 2018

Mr. Houten made a motion to adjourn at 5:56PM. Mr. Carbone seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk