

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2019

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman
Chuck Clinch
Tim Houten
Jim Kelley
Jim Carbone
Michael Cloutier, Manager

Middleton Rail Trail Alliance:

Rick Kassiotis, John LeBlanc, Laurie York, Charles Costigan, Hector Quarti

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

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

**Tim Houten motioned to approve agenda as written. Jim Kelley seconded motion.
Motion carried 5-0.**

Middleton Rail Trail Alliance Discussion:

Chairman Twiss welcomed the members of the Rail Trail Alliance and passed the floor to them. They have ten members and have been meeting since September 2018. They want to let MELD know they are seriously interested in developing the rail trail on the stretch between Central Street and Essex Street. The trail will not be connected with the Town or MELD for funding. There is still \$126.6K available from the appropriation at the 2014 Town meeting under article 6. Additional funds will be raised by the MiRTA and Town residents. Mr. Cloutier stated this part of the rail trail was probably in the best shape for this project. MiRTA is not planning to pave the trail. Mr. Cloutier said the poles and wires on the rail trail feed the entire Town so MELD would always need access. This was the reason MELD purchased the ROW from Danvers. The alliance requested a liaison between MELD and MiRTA. It was suggested that Kenny Rollins be the liaison and Mr. Cloutier will discuss this with him. Mr. Cloutier asked who would be responsible for any liability. Mr. Kassiotis stated they would definitely have something set up so that MELD would not be responsible. They are also going to set up a tax-exempt status through a 501c. Chairman Twiss explained that as it was public land it would have to come under the Town's liability policy. He gave the example of the sledding hill that is under the Town's policy. Some other aspects that would have to be agreed upon would be the type of surface material, who will be responsible for maintenance and gates or other barriers. It will not be maintained during the winter. Additional information that was discussed was the average right of way

width is 80 feet and it is owned through a 99-year lease with Amtrak. All agreed that we could make this endeavor work between MELD and MiRTA.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the December 19, 2018 minutes as written. Chuck Clinch seconded motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Financials:

Cash position is up over this time in 2017. Investments made a little rebound in November but will take a hit in December. We are doing better from an operational standpoint than we were doing in 2017. We had a lot of income from mutual aid in 2018. In 2017 we spent \$9.028 mil and this year \$9.031 mil for purchased power. Our residential sales are up 5% and commercial sales up 1% from 2017. Industrial sales and street lights remain about the same as 2017. Bostik is now our biggest customer. The YTD power supply cost is \$0.101 which is what we predicted. We have signed new PPAs which represent about a 5% increase in our renewable energy. The ISO bills for capacity will go down in June. There will be another capacity auction next month. It is predicted to be lower than last year's \$4.63.

Battery Storage:

Mr. Cloutier spoke with the developer and both attorneys. We are getting close to a final draft agreement within the week. We are still on schedule for June 1st. The power transformers are the longest lead time item. Mr. Cloutier thinks we may not get them in time, and they are a weird 440 volts on the secondary side. He has come up with the solution that we could borrow two 1,500Kva transformers from the Littleton Electric Light. Mr. Cloutier spoke with their General Manager and he agreed to let us use them. NEC is the battery manufacturer. Wakefield is ahead of us for installation and we are next. Mr. Cloutier thinks it would be beneficial for us to go and look at the installation as they proceed.

Manager's Report:

MEAM is introducing legislation to help municipalities comply with the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008. The act is requiring the State to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 by 80% over the 1990 values. DEP came up with a CES (Clean Energy Standard) for the electric sector. We always contended that we were not part of the CES under Chapter 164 exemptions under Massachusetts General Laws. We want to maintain local control as we are not opposed to stopping global warming, or cleaning up the environment, or reducing greenhouse gases. MEAM came up with a proposal that we could live with under CES. Several legislations have been filed under which we would have to buy RECs and retire them. We want nuclear to count as clean energy under non-carbon emitting. On Friday Representative Tom Goldman, Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, filed the legislation for us along with Senator Ann Gobi. It is good that it was filed by the Chairman as it stands a better chance of not being tampered with or having changes made.

Fliers for the electric vehicles went out. We are seeing increased traffic on our website. Final drafts of our appliance rebates are being worked on and we are hoping to get those out within the next few weeks. January 1, 2019 will be the effective date.

Digger derrick is due to come in within the next few months.

Payment in lieu of taxes will be less than paid in 2018. Our net income is down but our purchases are up 3% to 4% so sales to consumers will be up. This will result in about \$5,000 to \$6,000 more in the payment but lower net income will reduce the total payment.

Other:

Mr. Clinch brought up the fact that during storms municipals do not get any credit for having crews standing by and crews working to get the power restored. He would like to see NEPPA or MEAM give public credit to these crews. Mr. Cloutier will bring it up at the next MEAM Meeting.

Dan Folding, Manager at the Rowley Electric Light, is retiring. There will be a coffee on February 4, 2019 at the Rowley Library at 10AM and a retirement party at the Bradford Tavern on February 22, 2019.

Next meeting: February 13, 2019.

Mr. Clinch made a motion to adjourn at 6:35PM. Mr. Houten seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk