

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2019

The following individuals were in attendance:

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

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:08PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the January 23, 2019 minutes as written. Chuck Clinch seconded motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Financials:

The power supply cost per KWH for year ending 2018 was \$0.101 compared to \$0.10 in 2017. We purchased a few million more KWHs and sold 2 million more than 2017. We are holding steady on power costs.

Balance sheet is not final as year-end adjustments need to be posted. Our cash position is up \$760K from 2017. However, our investments are down except for ISO Sovereign which is up \$80K. January is showing a good gain getting us back on track.

Variance report shows sales were up in residential, commercial and industrial but down in street lights. Overall, we are up almost \$600K. OPEB was funded \$300K last year. We have also had an actuarial study done and seem to be on track.

In Lieu of Taxes:

Mr. Cloutier is confident that the final net income figure of \$586,412.86 and the KWH sales figure of 97,789,049 are accurate. The "in lieu of tax" formula yields \$176,004.22. It was agreed to round up to \$176,100.00. Last year was \$223K. It must be taken into consideration that our solar field project netted the Town an additional \$38K by taking the land out of farm protec-

tion. The developer also paid an additional \$20K in real estate taxes and their payment in lieu of personal property taxes is around \$45K. Therefore, due to our work making the solar field possible the Town is actually receiving more money.

Motion:

Mr. Houten made a motion to pay the Town "In Lieu of Taxes" the amount of \$176,100.00. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Battery Storage:

Mr. Cloutier had a conference call with the developer, PLM Engineering and MMWEC. Because of the model we used, the developer will own and get the 30% investment tax credit. We will then save 30% in the payments we make. The developer has to agree on a pilot with the Town and is hoping for a payment of \$10K to \$15K per year. This may need to go before the Town Meeting. Everyone is still hoping for completion in June. We got transformer prices but if we do not get them in time due to the long lead time, we can borrow the transformers from Littleton.

Manager's Report:

MEAM Legislation calls for Municipals to keep local control but be a part of the solution for global warming. It spells out the technology we want to use. We also want to get credit for green energy. Mr. Cloutier spoke with the offices of local politicians Tarr, Moulton and Speliotis. The offices of Tarr and Moulton pledged their support but Speliotis's office would not commit.

The MCAN Report was passed out to the Commissioners. It is a report card for Massachusetts Municipal Light Plants. MELD did not fare well in the report but there are a lot of mistakes in the data. We did not get bonus points for the hybrid bucket truck, the solar field and our EV program, programmable and smart thermostats rebates. The report is not getting a lot of play from legislators. One of MCAN's strategies is to replace current commissioners with their members.

The Rebate Program is live. The website shows links to describe programs that are available. We are offering \$25 rebates for programmable thermostats and \$50 rebates for smart thermostats.

We gave solar dividends back as a credit on customer bills. The total amount was about \$4,200 and will be more next year, as these dividends only represented about half the year.

Our Standard and Poor credit rating went from an A Stable rating to an A Plus Stable rating.

The fork truck needs to be replaced as it is about 20 years old. The batteries will not hold a charge. We are going to spec out a diesel. The cost will be over \$50K. We will go out to bid with an early May lead time.

MEAM Roundtable is May 16th and 17th. Let Mr. Cloutier know if you are interested.

NEPPA Conference is August 18th to 21st at Mount Washington Hotel.

We should have delivery of the digger derrick by the end of March.

We are expecting an August delivery for the bucket truck.

NEPPA is showing an interest in the old 1994 digger truck for training purposes. We would not get much money if we auctioned it off. It was agreed we would deem the digger truck as surplus and donate it to NEPPA.

Next meeting: March 6, 2019

Mr. Houten made a motion to adjourn at 6:20PM. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk