

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 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 5:12PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the February 13, 2019 minutes as written. Chuck Clinch seconded motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Financials:

Cheryl closed out 2018 today. Granite Wind and Dynergy Energy were added to the Power Supply Sheet. These will fill us up to about 85% for 2019. First Light Hydro Plant will also be added in for March. We are off to a very good start compared to 2018. We paid \$0.63 per KWH for ISO charges for 2018 and \$0.395 for this year. It was not quite as cold so spot market prices were lower.

Battery Storage:

We are still working on agreement. Mr. Cloutier answered their questions and sent it back. It is taking longer than expected as the deal was not worked out before for the tax credit. They are an Italian company and they are trying to substitute their European business models and legalese. Mr. Cloutier feels it will be signed within a week. We won't have it up and running by June 1, 2019 but hope to have it delivered in June and installed within a month. There is still a good chance we will hit the peak but there is no guarantee. Mr. Cloutier will also be looking to do a small generator up at the substation. We have a 1000 Kva transformer and he was thinking of renting a 1000 KW generator if they do rent them. This would save us \$2,000.00 a month in rental fees. Mr. Cloutier has inquired with ENE to see if they are going to do a rental program. If the solar and the generator hit peak we would see a substantial savings.

Budget:

Mr. Cloutier supplied the Commissioners with the 2019 budget. It also showed the 2018 budget predicted and the actual 2018 figures. Mr. Cloutier trimmed back the 2019 interest income to lower than last year. Purchase power was down from 2018 budgeted amount. We are hoping for a relatively moderate income for 2019. Capital Budget expenses show \$500K for transportation which includes the digger derrick and the new bucket truck. Purchase power was budgeted lower in 2019.

Motion:

Mr. Houten made a motion to accept the budget as written. Mr. Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager's Report:

Last week Mr. Cloutier and Mr. Houten were in Washington DC. They had meetings with legislators or their aides. One of the major points was to get a Blue Ribbon Commission established to oversee or study FCM capacity market in ISO. We were able to find out Joseph Kennedy III is very involved and interested in the power sector. He has signed on and wants this commission to go forward. NEPPA will come up with a document highlighting how we envision the commission to be made up. We found out that nationally nuclear energy is not viewed as bad as it is in our region and that our own congressman is pro-nuclear.

Dick Joyce, General Manager in Wellesley, wrote an email to MCAN regarding their ranking report. He stated that the report was neither well written nor well researched.

We are opening the proposals on Friday for the new fork truck. Bernie was talking to a Toyota salesman about a May delivery. After opening the proposals, we are going to inspect the digger derrick in Streling. The delivery should be the next week.

Al Rosen, from The Stream Team, asked Mr. Cloutier to talk with them about the solar and electric cars at their meeting in June.

The Inspector General has issued a report on the Ratepayer Cost Burden: The Expense of Municipal Light Plants' Sick Leave Payouts. Some municipals have had large payouts over a seven-year period. Middleton's total payout was \$23,745.60 of the \$10,742,873.05 grand total paid out. The report says these payouts could affect the electric rates. Mr. Cloutier stated our payout did not have an impact on our rates. The State allows employees to buy back 20% up to 1,000 hours. We allow employees to buy back 25% up to 1200 hours or 300 hours maximum.

There is a C10 group that is fighting Seabrook. They wanted to increase the scrutiny of what they were going to look at to try to impinge the permitting process. NRC pushed back and said they are not going to change. So, this is good news for permitting process. Millstone is now considering closing. They say that they are not making enough money. They want to bid into the non-carbon emitting market in Connecticut and this would generate extra revenue for them. They represent 6% to 7% of our energy.

There was a bad article about MEAM because we submitted legislation for our own carbon reducing goals to get to the Global Solutions Act. MCAN is upset about the legislation. A woman from Ipswich wrote an article saying there was a trade association that controls municipal light plants.

MEAM Roundtable meeting is in May.

Next meeting: April 17, 2019

Mr. Houten made a motion to adjourn at 6:15PM. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk