

Middleton Electric Light Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 24, 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 5:05PM.

***Approval of Agenda:***

**Motion:**

**Tim Houten motioned to approve the agenda as written. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

***Approval of Minutes:***

**Motion:**

**Jim Kelley motioned to approve the June 19, 2019 minutes as written. Tim Houten seconded motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

***Financials:***

Once again, we have good news on the power supply. We are \$0.01 less expensive YTD for cost of KWHs than 2018. May was \$0.10 for both 2018 and 2019. Mr. Cloutier is predicting that our average for the year will remain the same. Billing was up from 2018 due to the May heat.

Balance Sheet was down a little on our investments but still up YTD. Cash is up over \$600K from 2018.

Income Statement shows a loss in the interest income of \$180K. However, the YTD amount is still a \$571K gain. Backing out the interest income loss, operationally we still made a net \$110K income. So, operationally we are in the black. We are very healthy YTD as we are down over \$400K for our costs from 2018. We may have to lower our rates sometime in the future if our investments continue to grow. This is because we may make too much money per DPU regulations.

***Battery Storage Update:***

They signed a contract with an excavating company. They are going to start digging next week. The transformers are in and we can handle them with the digger and the forklift. We will deliver them to the site when it is ready. Now they need to dig the footings and foundations for the piers for the batteries and inverter. We are still on track for early September for the batteries and a week later for the inverter. We are still working on a contract with Tangent Solutions.

***Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy:***

MEAM has submitted legislation and it was heard by the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee. The bill has been getting momentum. Mr. Cloutier asked that the Commissioners take a vote in support of greenhouse gas reduction. This will allow Mr. Cloutier to speak for MELD through the Board and allow the Commissioners to send a letter and set up policy. The policy will protect the autonomy of MELD while supporting the State's goals. Other competing legislation would take autonomy away from us for our power supply and mandate that we follow what the IOUs have to do and have us 100% renewable by 2035. Ipswich has pulled out their support. They have an Advisory Board and then the Board of Selectmen. They do not have a solution and just say MEAM legislation does not go far enough. They also say it is very important for the Ipswich Electric Department to maintain autonomy. Princeton and Belmont took a vote supporting autonomy. Thirty-seven out of forty municipal departments still support the legislation.

***Motion:***

**Mr. Houten moved that the Middleton Electric Light Department support Greenhouse Gas Reduction consistent with HB 2863 – An Act relative to greenhouse gas emissions standards for municipal lighting plants, for the purpose of promoting the Commonwealth's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while acknowledging and preserving the statutory scheme of chapter 164 which places municipal lighting plant operations, finances, and rates under local control. The motion authorizes the Manager, consistent with his authority under MGL Ch. 164, to take the actions he deems necessary to support this bill and greenhouse gas reduction. Mr. Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioners signed letters to our State Representatives and Senator.

***Solar Award:***

Middleton Electric Light Department received an award from SEPA for the department connecting the 6<sup>th</sup> most solar power per customer in the United States in 2018. Mr. Cloutier will put out a press release.

***Manager's Report:***

Forklift is here and was put right to work lifting the transformers. The men like it as it is a great improvement over the last one. Bucket truck is scheduled to be delivered the last week of August. We are still having trouble with the turbo charger on the old digger derrick, so we have not yet been able to deliver our surplus one to NEPPA.

We received a request for large public records from PLAN (Pipeline Awareness Network). They are against pipeline expansion. All municipalities in Massachusetts received the request. Mr. Cloutier does not know what they want with our PPAs, but he did comply online. He copied the Town Clerk as that was where the request was forwarded from.

Kenny Gibbons asked if MELD would help them with a project they are doing in Brigadoon. The trees are digging into the sidewalks and growing into the wires. They are applying for a grant as it is about \$1K a tree to cut tree down, remove stump and wood and plant a new tree. The new tree will be slower and lower growing and will have a less invasive root system. There about 30 trees impacting the wires. Mr. Cloutier would like to offer our assistance at a cost of about \$30K.

In the future, Mr. Cloutier would like to have a discussion regarding the future of MELD and it's restructuring to strengthen the department.

Mr. Cloutier was approached by Charlie Grant of N L Green Power of North America. They are interested in doing two battery projects. One would be behind the meter and the second would be a 115 megawatt project. Mr. Cloutier wanted to know if the Board had any interest in leasing some of the land near the substation. Board asked Mr. Cloutier to find out more information.

Mr. Cloutier viewed the battery installation in Wakefield, along with Ken Rollins and Bernie Walke.

The Stream Team presentation went well. There was good attendance and participation. Ted Speliotis's aide, Mike, attended and talked with Mr. Cloutier afterward to say he thought it was a great presentation.

NEPPA Conference is August 18<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Mount Washington Hotel.

Next meeting: September 18, 2019

Mr. Kelley made a motion to adjourn at 6:14 PM. Mr. Houten seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone  
Clerk