

Middleton Electric Light Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2020

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman

Chuck Clinch

Jim Kelley

Tim Houten

Jim Carbone

Michael Cloutier, Manager

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

***Approval of Agenda:***

**Motion:**

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

***Approval of Minutes:***

**Motion:**

**Tim Houten motioned to approve the minutes of August 12, 2020 as written. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

***Financials:***

The numbers are very good. The overall purchased power is down about \$0.0125. We also stayed below last year's rates. The financials show that we spent \$750,000 less this year and we bought 1mil kwh less than 2019.

The Balance Sheet indicates a healthy cash position. We are back in the black as our investments continue to climb. Collections are good and the customer with the highest balance is on a payment plan.

The Income Statement is very profitable and we made all our money back. Our investments are \$95K up. We will be funding the OPEB. The audit has been completed and everything was in order. Interest income is down from 2019 but is at a more realistic figure. July was profitable as it was an extremely hot summer. The battery hit peak in July for both transmission and capacity. We saved about \$336K but in turn spent about \$158K. Even if we do not make another peak for the rest of the year, we will still save about \$30K with a possibility of up to \$90K.

***Manager's Report:***

There have been more outages since our last meeting. Starlings destroyed the recloser at the DYS facility. The cost for a new one was \$25K. The men rubber taped the bracket and used UV paint on the recloser and siphon pole at DYS. We also bought spinners for the pole and a sonic bird repeller. There are literally thousands of birds in that area.

T J Cassidy did extensive damage to his knee in a motorcycle accident. He will be out for a few months.

The Rail Trail Committee got a grant for \$164K. Rick Kassiotis and Charlie Costigan from the Rail Trail and Mike and Kenny from MELD walked the part of the trail that will be built. The project is out to bid now as the grant wants it done soon. It will have 10" gravel and will be 10' wide from the Central Street substation to Essex Street. The work should start soon and hopefully be done by the end of October.

Mr. Cloutier was approached by Andy Sheehan to run fiber between all Town buildings. This will be for data and not telephone or cable lines. It is not hard to run and MELD will not fully subsidize the project. Mr. Cloutier will check with other electric departments who have done this.

Mr. Cloutier is looking to have MELD take full ownership of the poles from Verizon. Mr. Cloutier will keep the Commissioners posted on the progress.

MELD received a Mutual Aid Commendation from the American Public Power Association for providing mutual aid to the Wallingford Department of Public Utilities in Connecticut. Kenny, Brendan and Jeramie were the men who responded. Mr. Cloutier will do a press release.

The MELD office is still closed to the public. The office help is handling the work well.

The office is getting new computers to replace aged ones.

Next meeting: October 21, 2020

Tim Houten motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:55PM.

Respectively submitted,

James Carbone  
Clerk