

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 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 November 18, 2020 as written. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Financials:

Power supply doing well. Spot market is low as there is plenty of inexpensive natural gas. We still have not received an invoice from Rivermill Hydro. Mr. Cloutier will contact them to find out why. Everything else is tracking the same.

Balance Sheet is strong. We did have a small loss in the interest income, but it came back in November. The year-to-date looks good and we are where we need to be.

Manager's Report:

The last residential rate, put in place by Mark Kelly, has nothing in the language for any variables to lower rates when needed. Mr. Cloutier is looking into this and

would like to change the language for residential rates so that the energy charge would reflect the energy costs.

Mr. Cloutier passed out the abatement list for this year to the Commissioners for their review.

Motion:

Tim Houten made the motion to approve the abatements as written. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Rail trail just about done. The solar lights have been delivered and are being assembled. When they are installed that will finish the rail trail from Essex Street to Central Street.

Verizon got back to Mr. Cloutier and stated they are not interested in transferring the ownership of the poles at this time. Mr. Cloutier will continue to work towards getting this done.

The metering project pilot is almost wrapped up. As of this date, 1,040 meters are now being read remotely. We have received more meters and David is very motivated to get them in. With this new system, you can read a meter from Richardson's to the ice-skating rink off Maple Street. David is very pleased with the system. By this time next year almost all the meters in Town will be on the system.

Yesterday we bought about 12% of the energy we will need for 2021. We solicited pricing from six power suppliers and got good pricing. We also bought a little bit of energy for January and February in off peak. Our biggest peak was in October to replace Seabrook which will be shutting down for refueling in October. All energy costs were just under \$0.035 Kwh. We bought about 12,000 megawatt hours at a final price of \$34.14. The 2021 power supply is looking good.

Mr. Cloutier asked Chairman Twiss to sign his vacation buy-back per his employment agreement.

We had one solar installation that got money back from the solar rebate program. So, MELD gets the renewable energy credits. We just need to sign the forms and return to the DOER.

Mr. Cloutier had a call from the Department of Youth Services on Gregory Street asking for information. They are getting serious for a roof top solar installation. It will be between 100 to 150 KW.

MEAM bill will probably not get through before the end of year. It will be filed again in 2021.

The protocol for mask wearing is going well. Linemen and office workers doing fine. They have been told if they need any additional supplies, Bernie has them. We purchased an electrostatic sprayer and Bernie will spray at least once a week and we also have a company come in to sanitize. Over the summer, we had Preferred Air come in and install an ultraviolet light filter.

The rug in the office needs to be updated. It is 30 years old.

No MELD 2021 calendars were ordered for distribution this year.

Mr. Cloutier's contract needs to be renewed next month. The workers' contract is up for renewal in March. Mr. Cloutier will put on next month's agenda.

Next meeting: January 13, 2021

Jim Kelley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:47PM.

Respectively submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk