

Middleton Electric Light Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2021

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 5:10PM.

***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:**

**Tim Houten motioned to approve the minutes of December 16, 2020 as written. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

***Financials:***

Power supply doing well, no surprises. Rivermill Hydro back on-line with 54,673KWH. They had been down due to equipment failure. The average monthly cost of KWH is \$0.083. We have signed additional PPAs, so we will be adding to this list in years to come.

The Balance Sheet passed out tonight is updated from the one sent previously by e-mail. The Income Statement is showing a \$500K increase in our investment income and we will finish with a healthy year. The net income is tracking similar to 2019.

The DOER Solar Rebate Program has been extended through June 2021.

***Manager's Report:***

The new sign was installed today in front of the MELD building and it looks great.

We are still maintaining a split crew protocol due to the pandemic. Everything is going smoothly, and we will extend it for another two weeks.

T J Cassidy has been cleared to work with no restrictions on February 1, 2021.

The first section of the rail trail is 100% completed. The DPW has been helping out. Additional grants are being solicited for the area between Central Street and Highland Road. The portion on Webb Street will be going above ground. The project has a lot of momentum.

MELD has not had any additional correspondence with Verizon. Mr. Cloutier wrote and ask why they did a similar project for Braintree and do not want to do one with MELD.

The meter program is going well. David will save over a day of work on his key reads when project is complete. Residential meters are slow due to COVID. Door hangers will be used when David is able to install the new meters. This is a perfect system for us. It was affordable and user friendly for our needs. Chairman Twiss questioned whether the system had the technology to share usage and outage information with the customers through e-mail. Mr. Cloutier said he would get additional information as to our system's capabilities.

The MEAM Climate Bill overwhelmingly passed the House and the Senate in the last few weeks. It is now in the Governor's office and if he does not sign or veto, it will be refiled in 2021. Then, if he does not sign or veto within ten days, it will automatically become law. The goal by 2030 is to have 50% non-emitting energy. MELD is in good shape as we will have over 50% with just nuclear.

ENE presented MELD with a grant program for installing charging stations in Town. The grant would be 100% for stations on Town property and 80% on private property. Mr. Cloutier suggested some potential site possibilities at the library, at 45 Central Street, behind Town Hall or at Thunder Bridge for Town property or at Market Basket for private property.

#### Manager's Review:

Mr. Cloutier presented the following accomplishments since his previous review:

Developed and implemented COVID protocol while maintaining high level of service as his core mission.

Exceeded economical goals during the pandemic, resulting in MELD being financially sound.

Worked with the Rail Trail Committee and the Town to develop a rail trail in Middleton.

Received a Mutual Aid Commendation for MELD in September 2020.

Worked with David to create a metering program that met the needs of MELD.

Continued to keep the employee morale up with his leadership.

Researched and purchased a new telephone system and remote computer server system that will save \$5K per year and improve our security.

Saved a gross of \$421K with a net of \$113K between capacity payments and regional network service charges for the batteries and saved \$220K with the solar.

Signed the following PPAs this year: Gravel Pit Solar, Biomas, Nextera, Rivermill and First Light Hydro.

Maintained good relationships within Town.

Demonstrated industry leadership as MEAM President over the past year.

Mr. Cloutier has 15 years managerial experience. The MEAM survey suggests a 7% increase for this length of experience. Mr. Cloutier's salary is currently \$196,500. One way this could be accomplished is by creating an incentive formula for longevity that slowly grows over the years. Mr. Cloutier agreed to research the wording for this incentive in other manager's contracts. The percentage increase could also be divided between the salary and the 457 account. It was also suggested that the contract be executed for a longer term than a year.

It was agreed that the subject of Mr. Cloutier's increase be further discussed at the next meeting.

Next meeting: February 17, 2021

Jim Kelley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone  
Clerk