

**Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2021**

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman

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. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the minutes of February 17, 2021 as written. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim Houten motioned to approve the Executive Session minutes of February 17, 2021 as written. Jim Kelley seconded motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion:

Chairman Twiss motioned to go into to Executive Session. Mr. Carbone took a roll call vote at 5:20PM. Jim Kelley, Frank Twiss, Tim Houten and Jim Carbone all voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Returned to regular session at 5:47PM.

Financials:

Power supply is higher as typical in winter. Cash is up and investments are a little down. We had a negative net income but most of it is the investment loss. The investments did, however, rebound in February. It is very similar to last year. We should be fine for what we budgeted this year. Essex Rink did make their first extra monthly payment along with their regular payment. It will probably take them sixteen months to pay off the debt. Mr. Cloutier is comfortable with that. Our arrears are up but okay. As a municipal, we are not under the DPU regulations which were extended to July. We will not aggressively pursue collections until May. Usage is down from 2020 because it was not as cold in 2021.

Manager's Report:

We have the collectors up and the meter readings are starting to come in. We are close to 50% or 1,800 meters of what we are reading.

Climate Bill passed the House and the Senate with some of the Governor's changes. It is now on the Governor's desk and we are waiting to see if he is going to sign it or veto it again. Either way it will definitely go through with either a signature or an override. There are over 200 bills currently being discussed in legislature which may impact MLPs. One of interest is due to COVID anyone who was required or volunteered to work outside of their home could receive either three years toward their service or their age towards their retirement.

Rail trail grant should have a decision by next week. MELD has been working on the Maple Street end. The Conservation Officer commented that they would like to be more involved in the future work. The towers will be coming down. The plan is to rent a piece of equipment that is a lift that will get up high enough to bring them down in good size.

Bill Fraher has started the audit and the DPU report. He will be announcing in the next few weeks what his plans are regarding his retirement.

Mr. Cloutier has been in discussions with the managers of the Littleton and Groveland Light Departments to form a co-op. The three entities would form a

co-op to be one entity. We would be able to consolidate services, products and the energy efficiency program. Nick from Littleton has a person who could put together a program for the co-op and we would share a third of that cost. The three departments have similar strategies, Boards and are like minded. The managers feel this is a good move. The idea at this point is to get the co-op formed to generate some value for each individual department. Municipal Light Departments can form co-ops and some departments have done it for specific projects. Some of the benefits would be taking advantage of personnel from the other light departments and splitting some services three ways. There would be a board with a member from each department. Mr. Cloutier would like to continue to explore this idea if there are no objections.

Manager's Review:

Add wordage to the contract that the \$2,500.00 longevity payment be made the first pay period of December. Mr. Cloutier will have contract ready to sign at next meeting.

Motion:

Tim Houten made a motion to approve contract as discussed. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

MEAM Plymouth meeting still on.

Next meeting April 21, 2021.

Tim Houten motioned to adjourned at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk