

Middleton Electric Light Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 2022

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman

Chuck Clinch

Jim Kelley

Jim Carbone

Michael Cloutier, Manager

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:08PM.

***Approval of Agenda:***

**Jim Kelley motioned to approve the agenda as written. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motioned carried 4-0.**

***Approval of Minutes:***

**Motion:**

**Jim Kelley motioned to approve the minutes of April 27, 2022, as written. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

***Financials:***

Power supply bounced back this month. The spot market pricing was better. We bought 100K more KWH this March than in 2021 at a \$0.005 lower price. April and May should be okay but starting in June the prices will rise again. We are still in a good cash position even though our investments are down. At this point, we may have to have to do something with the rate but will hold off as long as possible. Prior to 2016, we had a purchase power adjustment clause listed on the bills but when Mark Kelly redid the rate, he removed it. Because of this, we would have to have a public meeting to present the rates and then vote on it.

We currently have a prepay position of about \$700K that would decrease our purchase power account. This would reduce our expenses which in turn would increase our net income. That can be done at any time. We could show a loss even though technically we are supposed to cover all our costs. It is our intention to keep the rates as low as possible. We did make a positive income in March of \$34,950.63 which included a \$35,866.96 loss in interest income. Net income would have been around \$70K without the interest loss. We are currently 70% to 75% locked in for the rest of the year. Capacity will go down in June.

***Manager's Report:***

Trees on the Maple Street end of the rail trail are showing signs of dying and they are being treated to stimulate growth. It still looks like we will lose two or three of the trees towards the Highland Road end. Charlie sent a mockup of the bronze plaque that will be mounted on a rock near the Maple Street area. Paul checked with MELD to make sure the parking area near the Essex Street end of rail trail was approved by us. We are giving him a few utility poles so people will not drive onto the rail trail.

DPU Report was signed by the Commissioners.

Kevin, Nick and Michael had an interview with Scott Edwards for the CEO position for the Co-op. The final interview will be on May 24, 2022. Once a CEO is appointed, the Co-op should take off.

Dan Sack is retiring as the secretary/treasurer of MEAM. The position has been offered to Jane Parenteau. She has the same vision as the executive committee.

Mike Hyland was appointed as the new Executive Director of NEPPA.

Richardson's transformer has been replaced. All soil was transported and tested, and it does not need to be reported to the DEP. Mr. Daniels was very pleased with the work that MELD did.

All other transformers have been inspected and we have a few to replace.

MELD linemen came into meeting to thank the Commissioners for the continued support they have given them in the NEPPA Linemen's Rodeo. Their participation helps them network with other light departments which in turn helps when they go on mutual aid to know the crews with who they will work. The MELD team took home **First Place** all around. They took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the cutout dead-end change out, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the guy wire installation and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 4 KB crossarm change out. They had a total of 600 points, which is the best you can do.

We have some supply train issues but we have a good stock inventory. Transformer lead times are close to two years and transformers price have gone up even though we previously ordered them. We can still buy reconditioned, but they have gone way up in their price.

Next meeting: June 15, 2022

Chuck Clinch motioned to adjourn at 6:00PM. Jim Kelley seconded motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone  
Clerk