

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2022

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman
Chuck Clinch
Jim Kelley
Jim Carbone
Tim Houten

Michael Cloutier, Manager

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:05PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the agenda as written. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motioned carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Chuck Clinch motioned to approve the minutes of July 20, 2022, as written. Tim Houten seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Financials:

The average KWH price year to date is \$0.101. This time last year it was \$0.084. Last year we spent \$4.9mil for energy compared to this year's \$6mil. The reason being that the spot market is very expensive. Right now, the cost is \$0.16 per KWH.

On the positive side our cash position is still good at \$4.2mil. We started the year at \$5mil. We are trending down, as we are spending a lot more money than we

have in the past, but historically it is a high number for us. The investments are down right now. If we back out the investments, we have a positive net income of \$53K. We are not operationally underwater yet, but July and August were not good. We have lost about \$1.8mil in investments. We have been hitting the transmission peak in June, July and August. Power is expensive because natural gas is up. Right now, we are selling for less than what we are paying.

Mr. Cloutier is proposing a residential rate change to offset the increase in costs. The proposed new Rate A Residential is included in the Commissioners' packets. MELD has put this off as long as possible. Transmission is creeping up and capacity is on the way down. Distribution is also going up. Mr. Cloutier had a National Grid bill showing energy efficiency charges of \$0.022 per KWH. For 595 KWH it was an additional charge of \$13.08. They are also charging \$0.258 per KWH. A Central Maine Power bill for 546 KWH was \$122.00. They are paying \$0.242 per KWH which is \$0.09 more per KWH than MELD. MELD is at \$0.136. Mr. Cloutier is proposing the new rate to be approximately \$0.148 and makes the Energy Charge variable. This will be an average increase of about \$10 per month or less than 10%.

Tim Houten motioned to approve the proposed Rate A Residential. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Manager's Report:

Cordless leaf blowers and weed whackers are now on the rebate list. It is being handled inhouse and will show as a credit on your account.

Rail trail is complete from Essex Street to the Danvers line except for the Oak Road bridge. There have been a lot of compliments made for the trail.

We placed an order for 3 phase transformers and the lead time was not as long as expected. However, the single-phase pads did not meet our specs. They were very expensive, and the lead time was 148 weeks. We will go back out for new bids at some point as we do have some coming in in December.

Manole is working on a grant right now for safety training. We are hoping to get as much as \$15K towards our safety training. We are going to add chainsaw training.

RP3 award is almost ready to submit.

Ryan, our co-op student, is still working for us over the summer and will continue in the coop program when he returns to school in September. He has been doing blueprint scanning, helping Dave with the meters and helping Manole with data entry. The scanned blueprints will be integrated with our mapping system which will make the linemen's job more efficient.

Scott has finished the power supply model spreadsheet. The model is between 2023 and 2030. Mr. Cloutier will sit with him and decide how much we want to hedge each month. The idea is to add it to the Littleton contract as they are already using this model with BP Energy. Hopefully, we will get the same rate. We want to be fully hedged in the peak months. Once we get the contract, we can start locking up energy.

Next meeting: September 21,
2022

Chuck Clinch motioned to adjourn at 6:05PM. Jim Kelley seconded motion.
Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk