

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2023

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman
Chuck Clinch
Jim Kelley
Tim Houten
Jim Carbone
Michael Cloutier, Manager

Chairman Frank Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:07PM.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the minutes of February 22, 2023, as written. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Financials:

The Income Statement and the Balance Sheet are not in the Commissioners' packet, as 2022 has not yet been closed. The figures are basically the same except for one change. This is due to a late invoice in the amount of \$71,500.00 for the battery capacity service agreement. The Purchase Power account will go

up this amount. We are getting the books ready to close, as soon as Bill Fraher is finished with the adjustments.

The Power Supply Statement shows that January was favorable in the spot market. The average cost per KWH was \$0.111. This is down a penny from last year. February should be very similar, as it was very good in the spot market. Although we did not have a large open position.

Seabrook and Millstone ran all month, which is good. Our KWHs are down due to the warm winter weather. It is about three quarters of a million KWHs less.

Physical Security Discussion:

This was added to the meeting agenda because of an email Mr. Cloutier received from Middleton resident Rachel Nemeth.

We are constantly vigilant on maintaining security at our four substations as well as the MELD plant and offices. We have cameras, a locked gate and the perimeters are secure with alarms. We are also adding more updated cameras at strategic locations. On March 14, 2023, NEPPA conducted a tactical webinar on physical security for electric utilities. There was a lot of information on identifying and assessing threats and the best practices to increase security. Awareness is the key factor. NEPPA is going to have an additional breakout discussion at the Lineman's Rodeo on the substation security dos and don'ts. Then on April 4th they are going to have an in-person training at Littleton. It will be more on personal security and securing your people, facilities and equipment. We do take physical security seriously even though our substations are considered low risk. All of our substations have the capability to do internal switching or switching into neighboring utilities. We currently take one of our substations offline for service annually and do the switching. Our substations have redundancies, so it is okay if one is offline. NEPPA was here today training our Fire Department on electrical safety.

Rachel Nemeth asked whether our precautions included cyber security. Mr. Cloutier stated that we do not have any assets that are controlled by computer. She also suggested that we look into putting bullet proof glass around the

substations to prevent them from being damaged with bullets and possibly barriers around the substations to prevent vehicles from driving into them. Rachel also brought up the subject of smart poles that wirelessly connect to each other and are connected by fiber optics. She said she wanted to request that they are stopped from coming to Middleton, as it is uncertain what information they could collect. Mr. Cloutier said we do not have any presently in town. We are joint owners with Verizon for every pole in town. He thinks that the FCC may be able to trump local control. Mr. Cloutier would push back against this type of pole and the loss of any local control. Frank Nemeth then brought up EMP problems and asked if we have anything that needs to be shielded or can be shielded. Mr. Cloutier answered that it would cascade and would be prohibitive. Even if we could shield what we have, we could not control any supply up stream. Frank Nemeth then asked if people have started to talk about what can be done or are we not there yet. Mr. Cloutier stated we are not there yet as far as he knows.

Manager's Report:

The renovations are almost finished. The guys helped out with moving the furniture, pulling up the rugs and prepping the floor. Painter still has to work on second coats of paint. We will be upgrading the carpet in the main office and the manager's office eventually.

We sent a crew and supervisor to New Hampshire Electric Co-op. Chuck was the supervisor and Brendan and Mike the crew. NEPPA put together 26 crews. They were there for two days. The Co-op was very grateful for our help, especially since our men are so proficient at climbing.

We have added three linemen to our crew. We had eight applicants and we interviewed six. They are all experienced linemen. Two are second class linemen, one has completed the NEPPA school and is waiting to hit his four-year mark to make first class. The Class A lineman from Eversource will be evaluated to decide what year class at NEPPA school he will attend.

We are trying to lock up gas prices but there is something wrong with BP's trading desk. We are going to lock up the April gas rates at about \$2.20. It was \$5 to \$6 a few months ago. The lower pricing will help us keep our rates down.

The rodeo is being held in Plymouth, NH May 9th through the 11th. The MEAM meeting is in Plymouth, MA, May 19th. Let Mr. Cloutier know if you would like to attend.

Other:

Mr. Kelley brought up the subject of EV chargers. Mr. Cloutier said that the free chargers that we were considering putting in behind Memorial Hall and the Flint Library required us to pay for the software. The cost was about \$200 per month, so they were not completely free and would end up costing us money. Because there has not been a great demand from people asking to make a charger available, it would not be feasible from a cost standpoint.

Next meeting April 26, 2023.

Tim Houten motioned to adjourn at 6:25PM. Jim Kelley seconded motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk