

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2023

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. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motioned carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the minutes of June 20, 2023, as written. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Financials:

Power supply continuing to trend down, spot market and natural gas are low. We are about a penny less per KWH than last year. We sold our recs in June, resulting in the total monthly power cost to be \$0.054 per KWH. We received about \$220K for the recs. We are making money operationally and with our interest income.

We have made about \$700K for the year without interest income and almost \$800K with interest income. Our rates are where they should and there is no need to raise rates at this time. If this trend continues, we could even possibly lower rates. We moved about \$1 Million from cash into investments and \$300K into the long-term reserve account.

Last year we were below the five-year average for natural gas in storage. This year we are above the five-year average, but it is trending down toward the five-year average mark. There is another onshore wind project being presented by ENE that we will be looking at. It has already been built and is for a four-year term. If we extend the term, there is a possible step up in production in 2032, and we will have the right to first refusal. We are going to lock up some gas before winter now that the price is down. It is a good hedge at \$0.07 to \$0.075, compared to \$0.20 last year. Mr. Cloutier will also be pricing out the heat rate contract between 2025 and 2029.

Public Facilities Project:

As he is on the Public Facilities Project Committee, Chairman Twiss recused himself from this topic and left the room. Chuck Clinch took over as Acting Chairman. The project is being built on the golf course. Three poles need to be set by the phone company between Meadow Drive and the current golf course parking lot. We will then drop underground to a transformer and continue underground to the next transformer. One is for the Police and Fire public safety building and one for the Town Hall and the Senior Center building. It is a sizable project for which we would charge a developer. The estimated cost for the MELD work is \$216K. Mr. Cloutier would like the Commissioners to support this project as he feels we could comfortably offer this now.

Motion:

Timm Houten made a motion to support the project as presented. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager's Report:

There have been six outages since our last meeting in June. The biggest was during the September 8, 2023 storm, when a tree behind Memorial Hall fell and took the 23 KV Circuit of the pole, and one phase of the 102 Circuit broke. The

crews cleared the tree and got everything back up. There was also a tree down on Webb Street which took down the primary and secondary over several spans. The copier totally broke. We purchased a new one off the State bid. The new copier is now up and running.

David Ogden is working for GML. He won a NEPPA Service Award at the NEPPA Annual Conference.

We will be having a retirement party at Supino's, October 18, 2023, for Kenny. The tickets are \$30 per person. Mr. Cloutier will order a meter lamp as a gift from the Commissioners.

The Altec truck is scheduled to be delivered within a few weeks. The Kiley truck order is due at the end of the year. Hopefully, we will have the Ford Lightning pickup truck by the end of the year also.

GML News: contractors started to do the work on the building at the Groveland Light Department. They are taking the end of the building off, paneling it and enlarging the door to turn it into a mechanic's shop. Dave Burch is working for GML. Scott Edwards signed a three-year CEO contract.

Cheryl is planning to retire around March 2025 after 44 years of employment. Mr. Cloutier would like to hire someone ahead of time to enhance and further develop our sustainability programs; as well as assist with inventory and purchasing functions. Then this person will be trained to assume the position of Office Manager after Cheryl's retirement. Mr. Cloutier will start looking to fill this position.

The line crew contract is in its last year. They will have several ideas; one may be a four-day work week. Mr. Cloutier is also going to reevaluate the pay rates of the linemen steps. He will redo the spreadsheet with new values.

Next meeting October 25, 2023.

Tim Houten motioned to adjourn at 6:21PM. Jim Kelley seconded motion.
Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk