

Middleton Electric Light Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2024

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 5:10PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

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

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion:

Jim Kelley motioned to approve the minutes of April 24, 2024, as amended. Jim Carbone seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Town Clerk, Ilene Twiss:

Mrs. Twiss was invited to give a quick overview and answer some questions that were asked at the last meeting. It was questioned why Chuck Clinch had to leave the meeting prior to going into Executive Session regarding the salary discussion for the MELD employees and the Manager. Mrs. Twiss answered that under the Conflict-of-Interest Law 268, section 19, it limits and restricts you from participating in matters where an immediate family member is affected and has a financial interest. The law states that committee members

who recuse themselves from a particular agenda item must not participate in any manner whatsoever. You can either not attend the meeting until the conflict is addressed or leave the meeting when the conflict will be addressed. Even if the member does not participate but sits at the table while the conflict is being discussed, it is still a violation of the law and subject to a \$10K fine. We are on the radar of the State, and they are watching the Town Boards for any violation.

Under the Open Meeting Law 38 20G, it gives the Chairman, during a public hearing, the discretion on who may speak. If you post the public comment notation for open meeting comments you should include the time allotted, the Chairman must ask if anyone would like to speak. That person will be given two minutes or the time limit that was posted to speak. During public comments, the board does not respond or engage the speaker. This is because these speakers' comments are not on the posted agenda, and it would be a violation of the Open Meeting Law. Be careful what you talk about outside the meeting. Mrs. Twiss stated that many of the Commissioners are behind in their ethics training. She will send the State link out to the Commissioners again. You can only do it online, directly with the State. It takes about an hour and a half. If you do not have access to a computer, you may come to the MELD office and use an available computer. It must be done every two years.

Board Reorganization:

Motion:

Chuck Clinch made a motion to keep the Board as is. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Twiss asked the question that in the event that the Chairman is not at the meeting, what is the procedure used to have someone take over the meeting? It was acknowledged, that in the past, the Commissioners present decided who will take responsibility of the Chairman at that particular meeting.

Financials:

The power supply is tracking as usual. Last winter was very expensive but the 2024 winter was not. So far, YTD, we are almost 2 cents per KWH less than 2023. This has to do with the ISO Interchange. Gas has been low but has had a spike over the last two weeks. It has started to settle back. We have already locked in some gas for June, July and August.

Income statement reflects healthy positions. Investments are doing well, but in the next month they fell a little. Cash position is very healthy. Even though the building project will be very expensive, we will not be incurring debt for that due to our cash position. The natural gas generator for the Town complex will also be purchased out of our cash position. It was a good month both operationally and investment wise. We did make close to a half million dollars, but \$328K of that was from the investment income. Mr. Cloutier is not ready to reduce the PPAC or the energy charge at this time due to the fact that our YTD profit includes \$658K in interest. So, in reality, we have made only \$600K operationally. At this time, we are not anticipating making any withdrawals from our reserve accounts for the upcoming projects.

Manager's Report:

There were no outages since our last meeting.

At the May 7, 2024 NEPPA Rodeo, our team performed well. The team included Mike Beskid, Bryan Jackson and Matt Beede. They came in third overall, coming in 2nd in the pole climb, 2nd in the transformer change out, 3rd in the hurt man rescue and 3rd in the obstacle. MELD lineman Chuck Clinch and Commissioner Jim Kelley were thanked for being judges. There will be future changes made in the judging consistencies. There was a follow-up meeting with the sub-committee in which Mr. Cloutier requested time to discuss the judging and to include raw data from the rodeo. The Executive Director called to say there would not be time to allot in the meeting. He did agree that it needed to be addressed, and that there would be another meeting to discuss this problem. We are the only utility that has participated in every rodeo since 1999. In a total of 16 rodeos, we placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in 10 of them.

The architect is preparing the final plans for the renovation. We are at the early stages of preparing the bid documents that should go out this fall. Renovations include adding a bay at the end of the garage, adding a roof over the back of the garage, and adding a small addition to the linemen's room. They have done the borings out back and the flow test for the sprinkler system.

We have received three recommended locations for the large natural gas generator at the Town complex. One was a spot we originally envisioned behind

the safety building, but because of an eagle's nest, they won't allow a mono pole. There will be two diesel generators at each site. We are working out the logistics of how it will be dispatched. A load shedding generator is designed differently from an emergency generator in the way that it runs. It can't be lightly loaded for too long. We are using PLM for load study and recommendations on how to set up the island. We may have to do some work that automates the island and make it bigger. So, on loss of power, we would pick up more than just the complex. As outages usually are not long, it may not be feasible to do this. We have since found out that this will also put wear and tear on the generator.

The auditors were here today. The onsite report is final.

All Commissioners but Tim Houten Signed the DPU Report.

NEPPA Conference is scheduled August 25, 2024 to August 28, 2024 at the Mount Washington Hotel.

Next meeting: September 18, 2024.

Jim Kelley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:32PM. Chuck Clinch seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk