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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

## Light Commissioners' Meeting April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

Members present were: Dana Blais, Gregg Edwards, Julie Farrell

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Tom Berry

Resident present was: Robert Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by Dana.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor w/ Julie abstaining.

The March 13<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor w/ Julie abstaining.

### Old Business:

The Manager updated on the status of the Stonybrook III Project participation. Taunton Municipal Light Plant had finally been approached by MMWEC to ascertain their level of interest in purchasing a slice of the new 280-MW Combined-Cycle unit. Mike Horrigan, Manager of Taunton, had been very impressed with the cleanliness of the Stonybrook Power Plant in general, as Taunton had a 28-MW power plant of their own that they maintain and operate. The Manager stated that it was possible Taunton would want a 50-MW slice of combined-cycle power from Stonybrook III. The Manager was pleased at this since it would bring the project subscription from a likely 180 MW to 230 MW, even without Georgetown, Hudson, Littleton or Middleton (43 MW). MMWEC had seemed confident from their last board meeting that the remaining 7-50 MW would be taken by either CMEEC or by UMASS Amherst.

The Manager gave the Board to his ability the status of the current MA House Bill H-3896 and had earlier been in communication with Attorney Bob Rodophele. He (Rodophele) felt that there would be no movement of this bill until May since the Legislature was in session with budgets. Bob Rodophele further felt that a great deal of the objectionable (to MLPs) language would not survive committee due to the intense pressure now felt by Rep. Keenan of Salem and others serving on the telecommunications and energy committee. The manager also learned that the MEAM Legislative Committee would be convening this week w/ Bob Rodophele and any further significant developments would be passed on to other managers via e-mail.

### **New Business:**

The Manager had distributed copies of a letter to the Templeton B.O.S. about the upcoming \$100K PILOT that they'd receive in December. Town Coordinator Jeff Ritter called the Manager to have him pass on his thanks to the Board for their contribution to the town's fiscal budget gap. A letter from Jeff Ritter also came in the mail stating the same.

There had been a proposed bylaw to be adopted by the planning Board at the upcoming May town meeting. Chairman Kirk Moschetti had asked of the Manager that Templeton Light review the language in the proposed state bylaw draft to note anything that may be objectionable to them in the future development of solar generation facilities in Templeton. The Manager had concerns about designating all ground-mounted solar arrays as being a minimum of 250 KW in capacity. He felt that it may allow some other systems, 10-250 KW in size to "slip by" planning bylaws. The Manager also had concerns about the town requiring of the solar developer a bond to be held against future clean-up and removal of the generation facility. He felt that this was redundant due to the presence of similar language that would appear in any standard solar PPA to be entered into by Templeton Light. The Manager is going to look over the whole draft bylaw and report any concerns to the Planning Board at the April 10<sup>th</sup> public hearing.

The Manager had received letters from the principals at Baldwinville and Templeton Elementary Schools requesting of Templeton Light donation of two new televisions with DVD capability. Templeton Light has utilized Ray Gouley for a number of years to promote electrical safety in the schools and now even all of his safety videos are in DVD rather than VHS format. Dana Blais had concerns about donating additional monies to N.R.S.D since we already pay \$5K annually for land lease for Templeton Wind. It will be necessary for the Manager to get some more background information on just how much money is needed to purchase the two new televisions with DVD capability.

The Manager relayed to the Board some of his concerns on the new influx of request for Templeton light's interconnection with commercial solar generation, i.e. customer-

owned arrays to be net-metered. There currently exists an N-1/2 rate for residential solar generation which Templeton Light utilizes for three customers now, but this applies to only those arrays up to 10 KW maximum. The Manager expressed the need for a new net-metering rate for arrays in the 10-250 KW range that wouldn't necessarily be entered into a PPA. All the commercial solar generation would do is subtract from Templeton Light generation revenues currently at \$56.50 per MWH. The Manager gave an apocalyptic scenario of all commercial & industrial customers now generating 50% of their energy on their own, resulting in an annual loss of revenue of \$943K, an unsustainable situation.

The Manager had initially considered a new net metering rate so punishing that commercial solar generation would be discouraged, but must consider what effects that this would have on the town as a whole. Templeton Light has no desire to be the one stopping new commercial construction and taxation, but they also don't wish to surrender 2% of their operating revenues. The Manager feels that some time need be spent in communications with other managers as to their approach and it may ultimately require a new independent rate design for commercial net-metering installations.

The Manager distributed to the Board copies of a letter from the new MA D.P.U. Director, Nancy Stevens. He has so little correspondence with this agency that he felt merely it was worth of a mention, not so much discussion.

### **Other Business:**

Templeton Light has due on April 20<sup>th</sup> a payment to National Grid in the amount of \$281K which he had initially proposed withdrawing from the Select Buyout Trust Fund. After the Manager had conversations with Ron DeCurzio and Steve Smith from MMWEC he realized that this couldn't be done. Under the stipulations of the Select Agreement circa 2006 the funds can only be used to offset purchased power costs, a.k.a. Accounts #555 & #557. Discussions with MMWEC led to the alternative of transferring said funds from the MA Reserve Trust Fund to the town's general account, at which point the treasury can process a check to National Grid. The Board had previously taken a vote to make this down payment out of Select, so the Manager just wanted to make a clarification.

The Superintendent gave the Board an update as a result of a meeting he attended for the new proposed senior center across the street from the Templeton light office. Doug Morrison had expressed interest in Templeton Light contributing the materials, equipment & labor to install four parking lot lights on poles. The Superintendent had given a rough estimate of \$11K to perform this work which the Board didn't object to. The Manager had previously suggested an alternate metal halide flood fixture for better

distribution than the usual high-pressure sodium one. The Superintendent will in the meantime receive more accurate costs estimates for the light fixtures.

Julie Farrell had inquired as to the frequency and number of returned checks to Templeton Light. The Manager had not yet retrieved this information as it involves further research not being a constant offense by the same customers. He will obtain it for the May meeting.

The Manager had enclosed in the board package a Worcester T&G article with several managers' opinions of the pending MA House Bill H-3896, including Hudson, Paxton, Princeton and Shrewsbury. At this time the Manager gave some background on Rep. Keenan of Salem; in particular his raiding of the state's RGGI funds to subsidize Salem taxpayers once Salem Harbor's 745 MW coal- and oil-fired plants shut down.

There being no other regular session business to discuss, on a motion by Dana, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the light board meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll  
General Manager