

Light Commissioners' Meeting February 6th, 2013

Members present were: Dana Blais, Gregg Edwards, Chris Stewart

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Tom Berry

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Dana.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

The January 10th, 2013 minutes were approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Manager informed the Board that at this time, Braver was approximately 15% complete with their independent cost certification for the Templeton Wind Turbine Project. The Manager had set up and attended a meeting with Peter Chatellier of Braver and Carol Martucci and Ron DeCurzio of MMWEC to assure that all parties were on the same page and in cooperation with what TMLWP wanted out of this cost certification.

The Manager advised the Board that the new TMLWP website would be available for their viewing by Friday or the following Monday this week. He suggested the Board view it and give feedback in order to make changes to it prior to the customer letter going out informing TMLWP customers of the new website. Upon completion, Keene Web Works would be due their final payment of \$2,200 and would then invoice TMLWP \$20 monthly for web hosting services.

The Manager and Superintendent gave a synopsis of the recloser bid opening results from the previous Friday. Neither was really satisfied with the results, particularly because two of the four bids received did not comply with TMLWP's request to provide either a Cooper Form 6 or a Schweitzer 351/651 recloser controller with the units. Further, there were no recloser bids received from Cooper or from Siemens, which was surprising since Cooper was represented by Graybar and Siemens by Yale, two

distributors with whom TMLWP does much business. The Manager and Superintendent felt that it would make sense to re-bid the units in the hopes of getting better results or at least more results, and the Board agreed.

New Business:

The Manager informed the Board that the Templeton Wind Turbine had been shut down on January 18th and had remained so. Two separate gearbox oil samples had come back with non-conclusive results and a new noise could now distinctly be heard up in the nacelle when the three blades moved at all. The Superintendent had been in contact with Mobil Synthetic and had an endoscopic inspection of the gearbox done that morning. The results of this inspection were several digital photographs which showed for the most part a perfectly healthy wind turbine gearbox. The Superintendent noted in one digital photograph evidence of a clear misalignment between two of the planetary gears and had forwarded the findings to an authorized JaKe technician in the country. The Templeton Wind Turbine will remain shut down until a clear diagnosis has been made by JaKe and a “thumbs-up” has been offered as well.

The Superintendent gave the Board a scheduling update on the Baldwinville Road Reconstruction Project. The Light Plant will need to re-locate approximately 37 utility poles in conjunction with Comcast and Verizon for this project which is scheduled to begin in mid-March. Because this is a state-funded roadway project the Light Plant is eligible for reimbursement just as it was for the MA Routes 101 & 202 reconstruction projects.

The Manager reported some disturbing news regarding one of the Light Plant’s electrical services for the City of Gardner. The City’s Airport Commission has one of its three airport beacons located in a right-of-way adjacent to 300 South Main Street (the Kozlowski Property) in East Templeton and had reported to Templeton Police that one of its photocells had been shot out with some firearm. When the Superintendent investigated the situation, he found the Light Plant’s aluminum duplex service cable severed and on the ground. It was obvious to both the Manager and to the Superintendent that this service cable had been shot at multiple times and in fact enough times that it finally failed.

Due to his (Kozlowski’s) obvious dislike of the Gardner Airport Commission and also due the presence of multiple firearms being utilized on his (Kozlowski’s) own private firing range, the Manager suggested that he get the Light Plant out of this situation. A few years ago, the Light Plant had billed the Gardner Airport Commission approximately \$1,800 to connect three new airport beacons on Cottage Lane, Pail Factory Road and South Main Street. The Manager suggested that the Light Plant reimburse the portion of the approximately \$1,800 to the Gardner Airport Commission that was allocated to the South Main Street service and get the Light Plant released of any future liability or responsibility for the electrical service at this location. The Board agreed with the

Manager that the \$12 per month collected in revenue from these three electrical services didn't warrant this degree of hazard to the Light Plant personnel. The Manager would prepare a refund and a release letter.

Other Business:

The Manager informed the Board that the Light Plant had just purchased an additional 34 LED units to continue its replacement program of all of the town's streetlights. The Manager and Superintendent had looked at a few options based on the large number of units ordered (due to the unit price being cut from \$330 to \$260 w/ a newly designed fixture) and informed the Board that we could complete Baldwinville Road, half of Patriots Road and King Phillip Trail. We also had the option of picking a number of other smaller side roads such as Barre Road, Dudley Road, Brooks Village Road and Rice Road to distribute the 34 new LED fixtures.

The Manager noted that it seemed the east end of the town had received the bulk of the new LED light fixtures, leaving the west end mostly with the older HPS light fixtures. The Board felt that the Patriots Road option may be better at this time given the heavier volume of traffic on it regularly, so the Superintendent would get started on these installations promptly. The Manager stated that the Light Plant had already reduced the Town's annual streetlight expense from \$28K to \$25K and hoped to have it down to \$13K in seven years' time.

At this time [7:45 p.m.] a roll call vote was taken in the Open Session for the Light Board to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and the Light Commission believes that an Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body.

Chris – "aye" Gregg – "aye" Dana – "aye"

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Dana, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the Open Session Light Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll
General Manager