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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

Light Commissioners' Meeting October 6, 2015

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

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Tom Berry

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Dana.

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

Old Business:

The Manager updated the Board on the status of Light Plant bill collections as it related to several small claims which he had filed in Winchendon District Court. At this point in time there had been three court-ordered payment plans established as a result of five different court dates for electric customers indebted to the Light Plant:

Manfred Franz	33 Schoolhouse Road	\$400/Mo.
Melissa Andreasson	25 Circle Street	\$100/Mo.
Robert Ducksworth	19 Circle Street	\$50/Mo.

Two of the five scheduled for court appearances in September 2015 were no-shows:

Natasha Kennedy	107 Patriots Road	Owes \$2,214
Penny Sears	6 Meadow Lane	Owes \$1,954

The Manager had since filed six additional small claims in court for some other active and inactive electric accounts in arrears which will likely be heard in January 2016:

Elizabeth Brewer	13 Hamlett Mill Road	Owes \$3,431
Anthony D'Angelo	40 Orchard Lane	Owes \$510
Mary Duffy	38 Baldwin Drive Unit A9	Owes \$744
Bryan Favreau	1 Otter River Greene	Owes \$1,077
Jason Kavanagh	107 Patriots Road	Owes \$1,491
Justin Nicholson	21 Wellington Road	Owes \$539

He felt that it would be beneficial to the Light Plant to go this small claims route in the future for such electric customers, past or present, owing more than \$500.

The Manager had asked the Board to take a formal vote on what was to happen to his existing vehicle Truck #22, the 2010 Ford Explorer, once his new vehicle had arrived in November. The Board had previously agreed in principle to offer the vehicle to the Town's Cemetery & Parks Department but had reservations as to the Selectmen being able to navigate this surplus vehicle away from this town department and onto another. They had asked the Manager to speak with the Town Administrator on the legal authority of the Cemetery & Parks Commission versus the Select Board. The Manager had already received a letter from the Town Selectmen thanking the Light Commission for their donation of the vehicle to that specific department (C&P). At this time a vote was taken as follows:

"A motion was made by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor to offer the Light Plant's 2010 Ford Explorer to the Templeton Cemetery and Parks Department effective as soon as practicable with the delivery of the newer 2016 Ford Explorer from MHQ for the Manager."

Gregg – Aye

Chris – Aye

Dana - Aye

New Business:

The Manager and the Board had some discussion on the possibility of either an extension or a new building where the Light Plant currently stores some transformers outdoors next to the substation yard. The Light Plant had received roughly \$100,000 from MMWEC in August 2015 in surplus project funds and there was an appreciable amount of depreciation funds on hand as well. The purpose was to use some capital funds to purchase a new three-rail wire trailer for roughly \$50,000 and have a place to safely store it outdoors that was secure, as there was no more room in the operations center garage.

The Chairman was to set up a meeting with the Manager and with the Superintendent to view the site and get some ideas down on paper to go out to bid for construction in the spring of 2016.

The Manager had informed the Board about National Grid's proposed electric rate increase for November 1, 2015 of roughly 25%. He gave an example of what this would mean for a typical electric bill for 750 KWH of usage. The Manager stated that such an electric bill in Templeton would be \$101 at 13.4¢ against National Grid's \$164 at 21.9¢ in any neighboring town, a savings of \$63 or 38%. He had calculated savings on commercial electric bills in Templeton also for several rate classes and seen similar savings across the board against National Grid.

There were four (4) hand-outs that the Manager had prepared for the Board that did not particularly require any specific discussion:

- August and September 2015 KWH Sales & Revenues
- July and August 2015 Power Supply
- August and September 2015 Wind Generation
- September and October 2015 Residential Electric Rate Comparisons

At this time a roll call vote was taken in Open Session as follows:

"A motion was made by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor for the Board to enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel. The Light Commission believes that if it were to conduct such strategy sessions in Open Session it would have a detrimental effect on the Light Plant's collective bargaining position."

Dana – Aye

Gregg – Aye

Chris - Aye

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor the Light Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager