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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

Light Commissioners' Meeting September 11th, 2012

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

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Tom Berry

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Dana.

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

The July 10th, 2012 minutes were approved on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Manager and Superintendent gave the Board an update on the status of the Templeton Wind Turbine operation since its shutdown on June 28th of 2012. Elin-Motoren had sent IPS-Trico to come and replace the two bad bearings in the 1,650-KW generator set to the order of around \$ 30K. Templeton Light had not yet been invoiced for this work and IPS/Trico had retained the failed generator bearings for analysis to determine the cause for their failure(s). The Templeton Wind Turbine had been out-of-service for a total of 45 days for a cost of around \$ 11,838 for an average of \$ 263 per day in replacement power costs and WREC revenue.

The Manager and Superintendent gave the Board an update on the status of the installation of the electric service for the new Templeton Senior Center. All materials had been in-house except for the 75 KVA transformer on order, to be received in October. The Manager mentioned that the scope of this job had changed considerably

upon Templeton Light's discovery of it requiring a three-phase rather than a single-phase electric service. With the addition of some new proposed parking lot lighting, the new grand total for the electric service was \$ 19,484. The Manager asked the Board if they would agree to this new proposal and still want to fully fund the electric service into the new Templeton Senior Center and they agreed.

New Business:

Templeton Light had had a bid opening on August 31st of 2012 for a three-year maintenance proposal for the Templeton Wind Turbine from September of 2012 through August of 2015. The Manager informed the Board that only two bidders had responded, Lumus Construction of Wilmington, MA and Methuen Construction of Salem, NH. The average prices had come in at around \$ 80K annually, which was \$ 45K more than it had cost Templeton Light the previous two contract years. The Manager felt that this was due in total to the MA Prevailing Wage provision that was necessary to include under MA bidding laws. The Manager felt that at this time, rather than add another \$ 30 per MWH of generation in costs to the Templeton Wind Turbine, Templeton Light should continue to perform its own turbine maintenance to the extent that they were able. Other larger scale maintenance tasks could be secured via RFQs from Templeton Light on an as-needed basis. The Board agreed with the Manager's opinion, and neither bid shall be accepted.

The Board had years ago agreed to cover the costs of the baseball & softball field lighting at the Gilman-Waite site. The Manager and Superintendent had met with the Cemetery Superintendent recently and the scope of this lighting project had significantly changed. Templeton Light would likely require the installation of four 70' utility poles for the first ball field at a cost of around \$ 8K. Moreover, Templeton Light would not be able to transport said poles, install them or work on them with their 53' aerial lifts. The Manager advised the Board that when a height for the ball field lighting had been given to him that they would need to decide on whether to still cover the costs of the poles and a utility contractor to install them and the lighting as well.

The Cemetery Superintendent also informed the Manager and the Superintendent of the need for netting to be installed at the other ball field for the purpose of catching foul balls. This undertaking would require the installation of as many as 13 of the same 70' utility poles for the netting to be secured to, another huge undertaking involving the hiring of a utility contractor. The Manager said that he quickly saw Templeton Light's costs to prepare this ball field for netting rising to the \$ 30K level, and that once more background information was known he would need to secure new Board approval for Templeton Light to cover these new costs.

Rate comparisons of Templeton Light's Q2 commercial & residential electric rates were enclosed in the board package with Templeton Light's standing in the middle of the price range; not much change from Q1. The Manager advised the Board that it was likely that National Grid's recent decrease of their generation charge would likely disappear upon the imposition of a \$ 16M fine that they would need to cover for abysmal storm response during wind events in September and October.

An ISO New England FY13 Transmission Peak had been set on July 18th of 25,945 MW, down around 2,000 MW from the August 2nd of 2006 peak load of 28,048 MW. Templeton Light was able to recognize a net FY13 savings of around \$ 8,900 with the assistance of load shedding on the peak day from Graves' Construction and Templeton Water.

The Manager and Superintendent had distributed pictures of the now destroyed King Phillip Tr. Recloser for the Board to review. A discussion was had on the events leading up to the August 6th failure of this 6-year old protective device. The Manager said that most importantly there were no injuries even though two light employees had been in close proximity to the three distribution faults internal to this recloser. Both the manufacturer and the distributor had been notified about the event and were preparing a pick-up time for the unit to be shipped to NJ to Thomas & Betts for a full failure analysis.

The Manager stressed that once the reason for the unit's failure was known along with repair costs, Templeton Light would know whether or not they would need to procure one or two new distribution reclosers, since the Baldwinville Rd. unit is the same as the King Phillip Tr. one was. He did not see a need at present to rush out to Baldwinville Rd. and remove the second unit at this time, since this unit did see more frequent operations than the other, and removing it would put the 1302 circuit behind it in jeopardy.

The Manager had distributed pictures of the now destroyed Berkshire Wind Recloser for the Board to review. On August 11th of 2012, for reasons still unknown, this 25 KV 900 A padmounted circuit recloser had totally failed and had thereby disconnected the 15-MW wind farm from WMECO's 23 KV distribution circuit. This G&W Unit was under warranty, and due to the oddity of its voltage and amperage ratings, it was determined that a repair would be quicker than a replacement. The unit was put back into service on August 23rd of 2012 yielding 14 days of out-of-service time for Berkshire Wind Turbines. Like the Templeton Wind Turbine, the Manager had estimated the lost revenues to Templeton Light at \$ 5,387 for an average of \$ 449 per day in replacement power costs.

There being no other regular session business to discuss, on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor the light board meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

At this time [8:33 p.m.] a roll call vote was taken for the Light Board to enter into executive session for the purpose of approving minutes from the July 10th, 2012 executive session and also to discuss a competitively sensitive issue that would address proprietary information associated with MMWEC's Special Project 2012A:

Gregg – “aye”

Chris – “aye”

Dana – “aye”

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll
General Manager