

**Light Commissioners' Meeting
December 10, 2013**

Members present were: Gregg Edwards, Chris Stewart

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Tom Berry

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Gregg.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 2-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Manager had invited Matthew Ide from MMWEC to come to the meeting tonight to discuss the establishment of an OPEB Trust for Templeton Light and explain what it would mean financially for Templeton Light. He explained to the Board the method by which he had determined that Templeton Light could, with a \$120K initial installment, be fully funded for its other post-employment benefits in 21 years for \$13K per year. Both the Manager and Matthew described scenarios in which it would not be good to have the Light Plant's funds in the same place as the Town's funds (Middleton, MA), nor would it be good to remain unfunded going forward (Central Falls, RI, Detroit, MI).

After some further discussion the Manager called for a vote to establish the OPEB Trust using documents he had received from MMWEC to do so. On a motion made by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 2-0 in favor, the Board voted to establish its own OPEB Trust to be held at/managed by MMWEC. Matthew Ide had stated that the board could vote at another time if they wished on the \$120K payment and could even use his spreadsheet calculator to see how a larger payment would reduce the years needed to fully fund.

The Manager presented to the Board a second draft of the proposed 2014 light budget after making a few changes suggested at the November meeting on the line items for payroll, building maintenance and turbine maintenance. The new budget figure had come in at \$8,097,268 after these figures had been adjusted. On a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 2-0 in favor the Board voted to accept the proposed 2014 light budget of \$8,097,268.

The Manager presented to the Board the sixth and final version of the 2014 cost-of-service electric rate study which proposed a 4% increase in electric revenues going

forward. The final analysis was based on a proposed budget of \$8.1M and a return on investment in net utility plant of 1% or \$310K.

The Manager had received a close-out letter from Peter Chatellier at braver, PC on the Wind Turbine Cost Certification performed over the last three years. Peter had calculated the final project cost to Templeton light at \$3,830,068 and had been able to account for invoices and payments equaling \$3,828,327. The Manager (again) noted that this demonstrated a discrepancy of \$1,741, also known as 0.05%. Peter was of the opinion that this level of discrepancy was an acceptable margin of error for a project of this scope. The Manager stated that he would get a formal copy of this close-out letter onto the TMLWP website.

New Business:

The Superintendent had brought an MHQ quote for a 2014 Ford F-150 Pickup to replace the existing Truck #21, a 2006 vehicle. Upon some review of the quote it was realized that some items had been improperly priced or left off of the list. Both the Manager and the Superintendent had expressed interest in acquiring an extended cab vehicle for the purpose of transporting more personnel when necessary, for which the V-8 engine was probably a requirement. The Superintendent will have MHQ re-quote this vehicle for discussion at the January meeting.

The Manager had prepared a report to the Board on Templeton Light's share of wind generation for November 2013 between Berkshire Wind and Templeton Wind. He stated that there had been 323 MWH and 253 MWH from Berkshire Wind and Templeton Wind respectively for total wind generation of 576 MWH for November 2013, likely comprising 10-12% of the Light Plant's power supply for that month. By adding in the revenue received from the WRECs from Q1 2013 the aggregate wind generation had paid for itself and then some. The Manager noted that the November generation for Templeton Wind was a record high for that month.

[Short Term Disability discussions were tabled for future; Manager had not had time to prepare an adequate presentation.]

[The Gardner News article material was more or less a water issue and any cross-department discussion to deal with a light issue was redundant.]

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 2-0 in favor the Light Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll
General Manager

