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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

### **Light Commissioners' Meeting September 13, 2016**

Members present were: 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, 2-0 in favor.

The minutes of August 3, 2016 were approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 2-0 in favor.

#### **Old Business:**

The Manager and Superintendent gave the Board an update on the status of the RFP being developed for an AMI System by David Scott. They anticipated a first draft of the RFP document in one week's time.

The Manager was optimistic on some grant funding opportunities from both the MA DOER and the MA CEC for battery storage. The existing configuration of the 1303 distribution circuit had value because of the nature of the electrical load served by it. He expressed particular interest in a grant funding opportunity for "critical care" facilities, which he felt that the elderly housing and nursing home facilities could qualify as. The Manager was reaching out to MMWEC for their support on the battery storage proposal idea for 2 MVA of capacity and 3 MWH of energy in such a system.

The Manager had contacted SZOC about completing a full lot survey of the Light Plant's property located at 11 ¾ Elm Street in Baldwinville (former TMLP Office). They planned to have the lot surveyed and plan completed in one month's time for around \$1,500.

#### **New Business:**

The Manager gave to the Board copies of a letter that all of the MA MLP Managers had received from the MA IG's Office requesting information on departments' employees' accumulated paid time off. This inquiry had stemmed from the problems at the South Hadley Electric Light Department when the departing Manager had claimed over \$400K in unused paid time off, resulting in a legal battle. The Manager felt that the IG's intent of the letter was to assure that the MA MLPs had policies in place to protect their host towns from these unfunded liabilities surrounding employee paid time off buy-back. The Manager would have a response package prepared for the IG's request by the posted due date of Monday, September 26, 2016.

The Manager and the Superintendent discussed with the Board an invoice from RM Wilson Company for \$8,775.84 wind turbine work that they had done for us in June 2016. The invoice amount was over their initial estimate of \$5,186 by 69% and the work had not been completed. At this time their suggestion was to draft an e-mail to RM Wilson Company advising them of the Board's unwillingness to pay this invoice for \$8,775.84 and their willingness to never work together again. Neither the Manager nor the Superintendent thought that RM Wilson would simply go away, but they both felt that they had a pretty good case for unjust charges for the uncompleted wind turbine work.

MMWEC had organized a LED streetlight grant opportunity from the MA DOER for its members (including Templeton) that would, if awarded to the TMLWP, reimburse us up to \$20K for the installation of LED roadway streetlight fixtures to replace other less efficient HPS units. The granted funds would be disbursed in \$5K increments, with \$5K upon grant award, another \$5K upon purchase order issuance for lights and controls, another \$5K upon completion of 50% of the installations and the final \$5K upon completion of 100% of the installations. The Manager estimated that for the (roughly) 200 streetlights left to convert from LED to HPS, the TMLWP cost was around \$50K, so our cost could be cut to just \$30K with these granted funds from the MA DOER. The Board was supportive of the idea of the MA MLPs being eligible for grant funding from the state's renewable trust just as the MA IOUs were already.

The Manager informed the Board that the new transmission peak for ISO New England would definitely be for Friday, August 12, 2016 for Hour 16. This would replace the previously held transmission peak of Friday, July 22, 2016 for Hour 18. The Manager estimated the Light Plant's savings for this one (1) hour at just \$90K, which was less than our potential savings of \$152K had this peak remained at July 22. Any savings realized by the Light Plant were due to load-shedding contributions by WJ Graves, Templeton Sewer, Templeton Water and Templeton Solar.

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

- July 2016 Power Supply
- August 2016 Wind Generation
- August 2016 KWH Sales/Revenues
- September 2016 Residential Rate Comparisons

**Other Business:**

Dana had been approached by the Templeton Police Department about the possibility of the Light Plant's contributing a needed police vehicle to them. Dana had previously discussed this with the Manager before this meeting and by now there was an estimate from MHQ Municipal Vehicles for a 2017 Ford Explorer equipped as a police cruiser for \$41,680. There was some discussion amongst the Board and agreement that it would be a good idea to contribute something easily defined to the Town in this way, like a police vehicle. This PILOT would be applied to the Town's FY17 Contribution from the Light Plant. At this time a vote took place as follows:

*"On a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to purchase from MHQ Municipal Vehicles the 2017 Ford Explorer equipped as a police cruiser for \$41,680 as a contribution to the Town of Templeton's Police Department."*

*Dana – Aye*

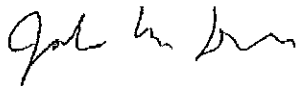
*Gregg – Aye*

*Chris – Aye*

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 2-0 in favor the Light Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager