



86 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 20, Baldwinville, MA 01436-0020

TEL: 978-939-5323

FAX: 978-939-4309

John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

Light Commissioners' Meeting August 18, 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.

The July 21, 2015 minutes were approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Manager discussed with Board the resolution for insurance coverage for the Templeton Wind Turbine. Ultimately, he had been able to rely on Matthew Ide from MMWEC and Diane Belanger from PURMA to secure a one-year policy thru PURMA/AIG for what will end up being about \$4,000 less per year than it was thru Eagle Insurance/Traveler's. The reduced rate was likely due to the fact the all of the existing Light Plant assets are already insured thru PURMA going back several years.

The Manager updated the status of the various collections issues taking place. He had already attended a court date of June 8, 2015 in Winchendon District Court regarding a renter in East Templeton who, at that time, owed the Light Plant about \$4,300; the result had been a judgment in the Light Plant's favor for a court-ordered \$400 monthly payment from this renter plus his regular monthly electric bill. The Manager had four more cases scheduled for September 28, 2015 with four other renters who, collectively, owed the Light Plant about \$6,400. He would update the Board on the progress of these at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Superintendent informed the Board that the Light Plant had received its new Truck #25, the Digger-Derrick, from James A Kiley Co in July. The Board wished to have the existing Truck #25 put onto the Municibid web site to be released to the highest bidder

as the Light Plant had already done with several surplus vehicles in the past. The Superintendent said that he would see to this.

The Manager distributed copies to the Board of a letter that he had received from the Templeton Police Department. It was a request to the Board and to the Manager to have the existing Truck #22, 2010 Ford Explorer, offered to the Templeton Police Department as a surplus vehicle. The Manager had explained to the police officer who had delivered the letter that the Board had already, albeit unofficially, promised this vehicle to the Cemetery & Parks Department. The delivering police officer understood the Light Plant's position on this matter as this department had experienced severe cuts over the last few fiscal budget years and would otherwise never have enough funds to secure a new vehicle for its superintendent. The Board requested of the Manager to find out from the Town Administrator whether or not Selectmen would allow the Cemetery & Parks Department to receive this vehicle to be used as their own due to a vote of the Board. The Manager would do this in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Manager was confident that the ISONE Peak of Monday, July 20, 2015 for Hour 17 would stand as the peak hour for Templeton Light for the next forward capacity auction (June 1, 2016 thru May 31, 2017). The Light Plant's savings due to the solar generation on Farnsworth was about \$126,000; the Manager explained that this was a combination of the hourly peak savings of \$20,000 at \$7.31 per kilowatt-month AND the yearly peak savings of \$106,000 at \$3.15 per kilowatt-month.

The Superintendent had prepared for the Board a draft of the new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) policy that the Board would need to vote on an adopt as company policy for all the Light Plant Operations Personnel subject to the new arc flash safety regulations. The Manager had hired Power Engineers to perform the arc flash study for the Light Plant and had initially proposed a 12 Cal rating for all of the everyday work clothing as opposed to the current 4-6 Cal rating in use. The Manager and the Superintendent had both reached out to Power Engineers to find out why the newer ratings were so much higher, almost to the point of impracticality. Many of the fault calculations performed were based on worst-case scenarios that would not present themselves; the Light Plant never performed energized substation bus work and it never performed any energized work on the distribution system w/o the protection of non-reclosing relays. After several emails and phone calls between the Light Plant and Power Engineers adjustments were made to hold the everyday work clothing at a rating of 8 Cal for distribution work, 20 Cal for substation work and 40 Cal for confined-space work such as padmount transformers. Both the Manager and the Superintendent were pleased with these newer arc flash study results and told the Board that the clothing allowance paid to the linemen under contract would now likely double rather than triple. At this time a board vote took place as follows:

"On a motion by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to accept the Superintendent's draft PPE policy as new company policy for the Light Plant forthwith. The changes to any clothing allowances and/or work clothing purchased would occur as soon as practicable."

Gregg – aye

Chris – aye

Dana - aye

New Business:

The Manager proposed to the Board some changes to the language in the Light Plant's General Terms & Conditions as it applied to electric service meter security deposits for renters. He explained to them how challenging it had been for the office staff to determine who was renting an apartment with electric heat or oil heat. At the moment the meter deposit was \$300 for an oil-heated unit and \$700 for an electricity-heated unit. The Manager explained that the average renter of an electricity-heated unit was accumulating an electric balance in the five winter moratorium months far in excess of \$700. He went on to say that it was not reasonable to just go ahead and double the \$700 to \$1,400 because some renters would just not use that much electricity regardless of heat type.

The Manager was proposing to the Board that going forward the electric meter security deposits be calculated based on three months of typical KWH usage based on the previous tenant. He added that any and all commercial meter deposits were already calculated in this manner and it made the most sense. The Manager wished to reduce the need for so many hours wasted on collections and small claims court matters because of renters showing up mid-October and disappearing mid-April with over \$2,000 owed to the Light Plant on average. The Board agreed that this should be the way and that Templeton Light should not need to police these apartments on their own for the existence of electric or oil heating systems. At this time a board vote took place as follows:

"On a motion by Dana, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to adopt the new policy the calculation of rental unit electric meter security deposits proposed by the Manager; that this change was to take effect on the next regular business day of the Light Plant."

Dana – aye

Chris – aye

Gregg – Aye

The Manager would have a discussion on Wednesday morning with the office staff so that they were aware of these changes and he would show them all the new process to be adhered to for these new meter deposit calculations. He would also contact Keene Web Works and have new version of the Light Plant's Terms & Conditions placed as a link on the company web site.

The Manager told the Board that the Light Plant would soon be receiving a check from MMWEC in the amount of \$113,542 less a \$14,495 adjustment for surplus nuclear debt service funds. The adjustment was necessary (according to MMWEC) due to ISONE's incorrectly crediting participants in the last Winter Reliability Program too much money. The Manager explained that apparently Templeton Light had been overpaid \$14,495 for their portion of the Intermediate Unit's generation so its net receipt of funds from MMWEC would only be \$99,047 for supposed overpayments to MMWEC for Projects 3,

4, 5 and 6. The funds would be deposited into the Light Plant's maintenance cash account w/o any objection by the Board to do so.

The Manager and the Superintendent summarized a meeting that they had requested take place with the Templeton Police Department.

Meeting Attendees:

- John Driscoll, TMLWP
- Tom Berry, TMLWP
- Mike Bennett, TPD
- Eric Smith, TPD
- Derek Hall, TPD
- Alicia O'Malley, Selectmen's Office HR

Both (John and Tom) of them were of the opinion that a police detail officer had been unnecessary on Elm St on a morning back in July during a routine service cable & connectors change-out. The Superintendent explained that this was a one-hour job that the police officer on duty had stopped, resulting in a power outage to the residential customer at that location lasting at least an hour longer than it should have been. The Manager and the Superintendent did not feel as though this job should have been stopped because of a bucket truck blocking half of a travel lane on Elm St, even though it was a numbered state road, Route 202.

The Light Plant had always in the future secured police details in advance of any job on a numbered road such as this one that was to last over an hour and this particular job was not to be one of those. The Superintendent had prepared a detailed listing of police details utilized going back 5 years which proved our point; that we do not avoid police details when they are necessary for the safety of our employees and the public. An agreement was reached that in the future if such a job was to take place that the Superintendent notify Michael Bennet before it starts so that he is aware of our location and timeframe in the event he should field complaints about our being there.

It was further agreed that the Light Plant would be provided a copy of a traffic study done 10 years ago by the town that listed those town roads that were expected to have police details present for prolonged work by any town department (neither the Manager nor the Superintendent had seen or heard of this traffic study).

Derek Hall had told the Manager and the Superintendent that they should have a copy of the most recent police union contract where it is laid out when and where the members of the police union shall have details in town. The Manager said that that would be fine but that it was not necessary toward a resolution if Mike Bennett had the ultimate authority to decide when and where details were going to be.

Both the Manager and the Superintendent agreed that the frequency of the Light Plant's acquiring police details had slowed in 2015 because of the nature of the jobs being performed. Extensive work on state forced-account projects in the past (Dudley Rd, King Phillip Tr, Patriots Rd and Baldwinville Rd) and other Light department capital improvement projects (State Rd, Main St, Depot Rd and Patriots Rd spacer cable) had

been done with police details filling 6-8 hour time slots each weekday. A revenue stream for overtime pay for the local police had definitely disappeared in 2015 and the Light Plant wanted to make sure that the Police Department was requiring police details of all town departments for purposes of safety only. Overall the meeting was pretty amicable and the Manager and Superintendent both wanted this issue ironed out since the Light Plant would be replacing a lot of spacer cable over the next 10 years on several town roads.

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

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

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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager