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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

**Commissioners' Meeting
February 7th, 2012**

Members present were: Dana Blais, Gregg Edwards

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Tom Berry

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Dana.

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

The January 3rd minutes were approved on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Manager updated the Board on the status of the new Truck #29 for the Light Superintendent. The truck had been in-house for two weeks now but was waiting for a commercial radio delivery for installation to make it operable.

The Manager had a brief discussion involving some bad news on the Stonybrook III Project. It had become clear to him that now Hudson (20.0 MW) and Littleton (12.7 MW) would now withdraw from the PDA proceedings due to their lack of project interest. The Manager was concerned with an e-mail that had been circulated by the new Manager in Peabody (26.0 MW), Glenn Trueira, soliciting other municipals' level of interest in continued project involvement w/ Stonybrook III. With Bill Waters now retired, the Manager felt that Glenn Trueira had been asked by their light board to take a closer look at Peabody's own involvement in a 30-year gas commitment.

Should there ultimately be a full withdrawal of 58.7 MW worth of project commitment, the Manager felt that MMWEC would be left with no other option but to dissolve

Project 2006A and sell the construction & environmental assets to a third party. The Manager expressed a best-case scenario of getting most of Templeton Light's thus far invested \$82,846 in PDA costs back. MMWEC had already expressed their concerns in altering the Stonybrook III Project to make it a 180-MW plant due to poorer heat rates on the generator.

The Manager distributed to the Board copies of the 2012 Light Budget (previously approved) which incorporated the \$5,000.00 land lease payment to Narragansett Regional High School.

New Business:

The Manager updated the Board on the current operating status of the Berkshire Wind Project. There had been 322 MWH of generation by Berkshire Wind for Templeton in January of 2012, which is reflective of a 52.61 % capacity factor. By comparison, the Templeton Wind Project generated 235 MWH in January of 2012, which is reflective of a 19.14 % capacity factor. He had also informed the Board that 1 of the 10 turbines at Berkshire Wind had been done for 8 weeks, but the generation output was so impressive for November & December of 2011 that it had been difficult to see the outage.

The Manager had distributed copies of a legal opinion from Scobbo, Ferriter & Rodophele regarding third-party solar generation for municipal light plant customers. This opinion was basically a reinforcement of Chapter 164 Section 47a, but nonetheless several of the newer managers had requested of MMWEC such an opinion to be drafted to fend off some of the more aggressive solar developers that they had come into contact with.

The developer from the commercial property on Patriots Road by Exit #19 off of Route 2 had come by Templeton Light to discuss with the manager a proposal for one or several solar generation facility installations in conjunction with the multi-building commercial plaza. There existed a MEPA Permit for third project that was being delayed in its issuance for the developer because he couldn't demonstrate that the solar KWH would go directly back to these new commercial buildings. The Manager had explained to this developer that the solar KWH would have to go through a revenue meter first, after which they were the property of Templeton Light to be distributed as they saw fit. Further, the Manager emphasized to the developer of the many revenue metering installations that would be costly & necessary to even attempt what he was proposing.

This developer seemed to be interested in owning the solar generation facilities and selling it back to these new commercial buildings directly, circumventing the municipal light plant. The Manager told him that this was both illegal & impossible, but that he

was more than willing to meet again & again with him and w/ MEPA if it meant getting the electrical load delivered to Templeton Light.

The Manager conducted Templeton Light's annual commercial/industrial customer meeting on January 31st of 2012. However, the attendance was dismal and it is unclear the benefits of continuing it in upcoming years. The Manager added that he can simply call or visit these customers on a one-by-one basis anyway should they require it.

The Manager gave an analysis of the pending MA House Bill HB 3896, which had originally circulated in the Legislature as the "Municipalization Bill". The current version of the bill was in fact so far removed from that original mission statement that it was barely recognizable anymore. The Manager cited issue by issue all of the harmful things present in the bill, including the enforcement of both the energy efficiency & renewable assessments to ALL municipal light plants previously exempt, and more elusively the gutting of Section 47a under Chapter 164.

The Manager had attended an emergency MEAM meeting last week with other managers and counsel (Rodophele) to discuss plans to confer with representatives and senators who have constituents in municipal light territories. Both e-mails and letters had been dispatched to Rep. Anne Gobi of Spencer and Sen. Stephen Brewer of Barre, and the Manager anticipates phone calls soon to come with both individuals on this matter.

There being no other regular session business to discuss at this time, on a motion by Dana, seconded by Gregg, 2-0 in favor the light board meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll
General Manager