

**Mansfield Municipal Electric Department
Minutes of Light Commissioners Meeting
October 26, 2015**

Present: Chairman Jess Aptowitz, Vice Chairman Olivier Kozlowski, Clerk Frank DelVecchio, Commissioner George Dentino, Director Gary Babin, Financial Assistant Jacqueline Lee, Staff Accountant Kenneth Thomson, Town Accountant John Stanbrook and Town Manager William Ross

The meeting was held at the Mansfield Town Hall Room 3AB and called to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A complete copy of the Board packet containing all documents that are referenced in the minutes is on file at the Mansfield Electric Department office.

Motion: To enter into executive session for the following purposes:

- a. Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.164, Section 47D and M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21, Exception 10, to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information related to Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) proposal for the purchase of energy and capacity output the disclosure of which will adversely affect the Commission's ability to conduct business in relation to other entities.
- b. To approve minutes of the January 21, 2015 Executive Session at which the Commission invoked Exception No. 3 (Discuss Strategy with Respect To Collective Bargaining) related to MMED IBEW Local 104 Financial Assistants and Professional Units, as an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on Bargaining and the Chair So Declared.

(DelVecchio/Kozlowski) DelVecchio (AYE), Dentino (AYE), Kozlowski (AYE), Aptowitz (AYE) PASSES 4/0

Open Session resumed at 8:10

FY15 MMED Audit- Michael Nelligan from Powers & Sullivan, LLC reviewed the FY15 MMED audit. He told the Board that the audit went smoothly and MMED Accountant Ken Thomson had a good package ready for them. He stated that there were no issues and everything was balanced. Aside from the pension information, which was beyond their control, they got everything they needed in a timely manner.

Mr. Nelligan then highlighted the changes in the audit report. He explained that the document, which used to be an unqualified report, is now an unmodified report. Revenue and expense categories are broken into more detail than they were before. There was good positive cash flow through operating activities. There was a positive change in cash of \$1.7 million. There is also a category for deferred inflows and outflows which is a new category and is related to pensions. Mr. Nelligan explained the inflows and outflows are not considered assets or liabilities and really are their own category.

Director Babin questioned whether the Bristol County Retirement Board will hold them up every year going forward. Mr. Nelligan answered no; he does not expect this to be a problem in the future.

Mr. Nelligan said that the biggest thing that happened with the pension disclosures was the \$2.9 million dollar liability that came on the books. In the past it was just simply recorded as a footnote disclosure. Now it is a real liability recorded on the books.

**Motion: To accept the FY15 MMED Audit
(DelVecchio/Kozlowski) Passes 4/0**

Chairman Aptowitz thanked Mr. Nelligan and MMED Accountant Ken Thomson for all of their hard work, saying that he appreciated it.

There was a discussion about the PILOT payment. Mr. Nelligan was asked if he has a policy on how to calculate the PILOT payment. He explained that if the amount of the payment is based on a methodology of services provided then it is an above the line expense. If the Town just sets a number then it gets recorded below the line. He also noted that it does not factor into rates. He thinks that most of his clients use the dart board method when determining their PILOT amount. Commissioner Dentino believes in using actual costs as they are doing in other areas of the Town. Chairman Aptowitz thinks there should be a methodology for calculating the PILOT and asked the Board to think about this for the upcoming budget season.

Branch Street Solar Project- Town Manager Ross told the Board that although they had hoped to discuss and approve the final Development Agreement, Purchased Power Agreement and Interconnection Agreement for the Branch Street Solar Project, the agreements were not yet ready. He told them they would be unable to take a vote this evening.

Director Babin said they were at the 95% point with the agreements and that the meetings have been going well. He feels they are close to being completed and bringing the agreements to the Board. Town Manager Ross added that he would like to give the Board at least a week to read over the documents before they are asked to vote on them.

Director's Report-Director Babin announced that the Annual Senior Luncheon would be held on Friday, October 30, 2015 at 11:30 at the Council on Aging.

**Motion: To approve the minutes from the September 30, 2015 Light Commissioners meeting
(Kozlowski/DelVecchio) Passes 4/0**

Citizens Comments- none

Comments from Commissioners- Vice Chairman Kozlowski thanked Director Babin for the information he had requested on the Town fiber network.

Chairman Aptowitz questioned whether everyone was squared away with the banners. Director Babin answered that they are all set.

Town Manager Ross mentioned that Commissioner DelVecchio attended the Strategic Planning Session. One of the strengths of Mansfield that every group in attendance emphasized was the reliability and the low cost of the Light Department. It was a matter of pride to everyone there. Chairman Aptowitz said that MMED's rates are among the lowest in the state. Town Manager Ross added that the service level is among the best too. Director Babin stated that he was very proud of the job MMED does.


There was a discussion about customers notifying the Light Department about streetlights that are in need of repair. Director Babin said that residents can either call the office or go on the MMED website and send an e-mail. Lisa Chalifoux of 49 Jakes Way voiced her concern about the lack of lighting on East Street near the bike path. She said she watched a couple of people out walking almost get hit by the car in front of her because it failed to stop for them. She thinks there needs to be more lighting in that area. Chairman Aptowitz said they would have the Public Works people look into that.

**Motion: To adjourn at 9:00pm
(Kozłowski/Dentino) Passes 4/0**

Respectfully submitted: Jacqueline Lee



Signature of Clerk



Date of Approval