

**Mansfield Municipal Electric Department  
Minutes of Light Commissioners Meeting  
January 29, 2018**

**Present:** Chairman Jess Aptowitz, Vice Chairman Frank Delvecchio, Clerk Steve Schoonveld, Commissioner Michael Trowbridge, Commissioner Neil Rhein, Director Joseph Sollecito and Financial Assistant Jacqueline Lee

The meeting was held at the Mansfield Town Hall Room 3AB and called to order at 6:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Aptowitz stated that this meeting is being televised and taped for future broadcast and asked if anyone in the audience was intending to record the meeting to please state their intentions. No one did so.

A complete copy of the Board packet containing all documents that are referenced in the minutes is on file at the Mansfield Municipal Electric Department office.

**Citizens Comments:** none

**Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 20, 2017 Light Commissioners meeting  
(Schoonveld/Delvecchio) Passes 5/0**

**Financial Results for December 2017-** Director Sollecito stated that the net operating income year-to-date through December is \$664,698. In FY17, the net income through December was \$728,634. MMED's operating cash position through December 2017 is \$15,070,493 which is due to the cash surplus from MMWEC. Director Sollecito said that \$2.2 million was returned to MMED from MMWEC. Clerk Schoonveld requested a report showing month by month the monies that have been given back to the ratepayers.

**MMWEC Designation of Voting Representation-** Director Sollecito passed out a MMWEC voting certificate and said that he would be the primary designee for MMWEC votes but in case he was unavailable, the Board members are also listed as alternates.

**Motion: To approve the Designation of Voting Representative and Alternates as proposed with Director Sollecito as the primary person and the members of the Light Commission as alternates  
(Trowbridge/Delvecchio) Passes 5/0**

**MMWEC's Berkshire Wind II project-** Director Sollecito told the Board that he has some concerns about the Berkshire Wind II agreement and is not comfortable signing it as is. His biggest issue is that part of the Phase II contract is tied to Phase I. He also has other concerns about maintenance costs with wind projects. He told the Board that he put in a call today to MMWEC with about five questions and they couldn't answer all of them as of yet and will be getting back to him with the answers.

Chairman Aptowitz questioned why only 11 municipals are participating and wondered why the rest of the 40 are not. Director Sollecito clarified that only 18 municipals are MMWEC members.

There was a discussion about the possibility of other municipals bailing from the project and whether the remaining members would have an obligation to cover them. Vice Chairman Delvecchio said that the real concern is whether MMED would have an obligation to Berkshire I. Chairman Aptowitz suggested that they table this until Director Sollecito comes back to them with MMWEC's answers to the questions he has asked them.

**Update on Distributive Generator Project-** Director Sollecito distributed pictures that Milton CAT had given him. He told the Board that delivery of the new generator will be in three parts. Mid February will be the delivery; March or April will be the testing and final completion will be the end of April. Costs are relatively in place but it is not definite if MMED will be over budget due to revised engineering costs. Director Sollecito said that the site looks great and invited the Board members to come by and see it. Originally there was going to be no charge from Columbia Gas but due to misinformation that is no longer the case. Director Sollecito said he would rather pay them up front now. He also said that MMED has paid Milton CAT a little over a million dollars at this point.

**Update on West Church Street Garage Project –** Director Sollecito told the Board that the bid documents for this project are being finalized and this project will be advertised in the newspaper on February 7 with the bid opening being scheduled for February 28. He explained that MMED is doing as much of the work as they can up front in an effort to save some money.

**Capital Project Request of Replacement of 2 Gilbert Street Substation Transformers –** Director Sollecito told the Board that before he even arrived at MMED, the replacement of the two Gilbert Street Substation Transformers was in MMED's capital plan. He said that both transformers are well past their life expectancy. Commissioner Trowbridge thought this needed to be presented to Capital Improvement. Clerk Schoonveld said they have a meeting scheduled for next week.

**Motion: To approve the replacement of two Gilbert Street Substation transformers in the FY19 capital budget subject to CIP (Trowbridge/Schoonveld) Passes 5/0**

**Potential Development of Interruptible Rate-** Director Sollecito stated that there are approximately 38 industrial customers who are "Large General Service" customers and have one peak demand for the month. The proposed "Interruptible Rate" would be a shared savings arrangement between MMED and the commercial customer but you have to have the right customers. Not all of them would be able to participate. The potential customer would be one who is operating during the peak load and has the ability to shut down operations during that time with very little notice. Director Sollecito said he is asking permission to build the rate and is hoping to get 1 or 2 customers to try it this year.

Commissioner Rhein thought this proposed rate would make Mansfield a more attractive place to do business.

Clerk Schoonveld asked what kind of customers would be potential candidates. Director Sollecito answered that he gave the Board members a list of 38 possible customers.

Commissioner Trowbridge asked how many of the 38 customers did Director Sollecito think could consider doing this. He answered that he had studied the 38 loads and thought maybe 7 would be capable of participating.

**Historic Energy Usage for 125 High Street-** MMED's electric expenses at 125 High Street have been significantly reduced due to the LED lighting that has been installed in the front office. Motion sensors have been placed out back in the shop so that lights are not on all day if no one is in there. Director Sollecito said he has also put in programmable thermostats which have contributed to MMED's savings too.

**Appliance Rebates** – Director Sollecito told the Board that MMED is required to spend approximately \$65,000 per year on conservation services. He thinks, however, that some of MMED's appliance rebate amounts are too high compared to other utilities and should be reduced. He said this is the only change he is proposing at this time with the rebate program.

Chairman Aptowitz thought MMED should give both customers and the appliance stores, such as Advantage Appliance and Home Depot, some notice if there were going to be any changes made.

**Motion: To continue with the current appliance rebate amounts until March 31, 2018 after which the proposed reduced amounts go into effect for a three year period (Trowbridge/Delvecchio) Fails 2/3 (Trowbridge & Aptowitz in favor/Delvecchio, Schoonveld & Rhein against)**

**Motion: To continue with the current appliance rebate program as is for the three year time period of January 2018-December 2020 (Schoonveld/Trowbridge) Passes 5/0**

**Comments from Commissioners** – Commissioner Rhein said he attended a MMA conference and is questioning grants that other communities are getting because they're certified as "green communities". Director Sollecito thought that certain conditions needed to be met. Commissioner Rhein believes there is one loophole which is if there is one customer in Mansfield who is not a MMED customer. Commissioner Rhein will pass on his contact information to Director Sollecito so that he can look into it.

Commissioner Rhein said he has had one customer complain that the new LED streetlights are too bright. Director Sollecito said he has also heard that. He did look into it and found that it is possible to get a dimmer controller.

Commissioner Trowbridge asked where MMED is at with the LED streetlight replacement. Director Sollecito said it is approximately 30% as it has to be done around the regular work schedule.

Chairman Aptowitz requested that a streetlight inventory be done as has been done in the past.

**Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the following reasons and to not return to open session:**

**A) To approve Executive Session minutes of December 20, 2017 at which the Chairman invoked:**

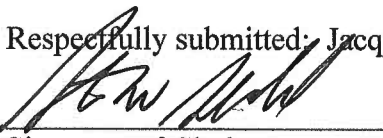
**1)Exemption 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel related to MMED Director and**


**2)Exemption 10, to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information related to Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) proposal for an ownership interest in a renewable power generation project, the disclosure of which will adversely affect the Commission's ability to conduct business in relation to other entities and the Chair so declared**

**B) Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 164, Section 47D and M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21, Exemption 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel related to MMED Director.**

**Roll Call Vote: Trowbridge-aye; Delvecchio-aye; Schoonveld-aye; Rhein-aye and Aptowitz-aye**

Respectfully submitted: Jacqueline Lee

  
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Signature of Clerk

  
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Date of Approval