

**Mansfield Municipal Electric Department
Minutes of Light Commissioners Meeting
April 30, 2018**

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

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. 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- Resident Zach Stewart from 43 Carpenter Ave wanted to bring to the Board's attention an issue he has with the new LED streetlights. He said he finds the glare from them extremely uncomfortable which led him to do some research. He then distributed copies of an AMA report about the harmful effects of these lights. The AMA recommends 3,000 kelvins and the lights that are being installed are 4,000 kelvins.

Manager Sollecito said there is high illumination from the LED lights as that's what they're supposed to do. He explained that what the AMA is referring to is color 'temperature' defining how the light shows the color of the objects illuminated. He offered to install a shield or a dimmer on the streetlight outside Mr. Stewart's residence which would reduce the glare. Manager Sollecito told the Board that the subject of light intrusion will have to be addressed as there were two other residents who also expressed concerns.

**Motion: To approve the minutes from the April 2, 2018 Light Commissioners meeting with the amendment that the motion to enter into executive session was made by Clerk Schoonveld
(Schoonveld/Delvecchio) Passes 5/0**

DPW Complex Lighting- Mike Ahern from the DPW was following up on a request on behalf of Doug Annino and the MBC (Municipal Building Committee) which was brought forth at the last Light Commissioners meeting. They are requesting that MMED cover the expense of the poles and foundations for the entrance to the new municipal complex which would cost about \$15,300. This would be for the materials only and the labor cost would be borne by the project.

Clerk Schoonveld would like to see all of the costs borne by the project. Chairman Aptowitz thinks that things will continue to come up and all costs related to that building should be borne by the project. Vice Chairman Delvecchio agreed with the concerns of Clerk Schoonveld and Chairman Aptowitz.

Commissioner Rhein wondered what Manager Sollecito thought. Manager Sollecito said that in the past MMED has incurred costs from this project but he believes it should be the Board's call.

Motion: To approve the request from the MBC for MMED to fund the cost of the poles and foundations for the walkway in front of the new municipal complex (Delvecchio/Schoonveld) Fails 0/5

FY19 Operations Budget- Manager Sollecito reviewed MMED's FY19 Operations Budget with the Board. He told them the rate of return is 1.96% for FY19. When comparing FY18 to FY19, the net income for FY18 is \$677,902 and for FY19 the proposed amount is \$1,136,648. Manager Sollecito pointed out on the FY19 Statement of Income and Surplus that transmission expenses are approximately \$4.5 million. He said that both the Total Customer Accounts Expense and Total Administrative & General Expense are a little over \$1,000,000 each. MMED's total expenses are estimated to be \$24,691,079 for FY19. When reviewing Labor Allocation, Manager Sollecito explained that a lot of the overtime was because of the storms and hurricanes earlier this year. He noted that MMED has an outstandingly small staff that does a lot of work.

Manager Sollecito told the Board that MMWEC apologized for publishing a financial error due to a mistake on their part. He said that MMWEC's projections included an increase in capacity costs of \$6,000,000. Mayhew Seavey was the first to catch this error. Manager Sollecito said he also gives credit to MMED's Staff Accountant Ken Thomson for pulling all of this together in such a short time and doing a great job. Once the oversight was discovered and corrected, the uplift cost related to FCA 9 was very little.

Vice Chairman Delvecchio said he knows this issue with MMWEC was a communications issue and wondered about improvement with that in the future. Manager Sollecito stated how this error did cause tremendous anguish to MMED staff and reiterated that to MMWEC. Ron DeCurzio promised to use this incident to correct his staff to insure that such errors will not happen again.

Chairman Aptowitz suggested they have Ron DeCurzio come to a Light Commissioners meeting to talk about this as well as other issues.

Clerk Schoonveld asked how the PILOT is calculated. Manager Sollecito said he believes that it is a calculation of net plant value times the commercial rate but will ask Staff Accountant Thomson to confirm that. Clerk Schoonveld also wondered if the new generator has any effect on the PILOT. Chairman Aptowitz said he thought it was very minimal but that it will increase the net plant value.

Clerk Schoonveld questioned the amount of overtime in the proposed budget. He asked if there were any pads in the budget because it looked very tight. Manager Sollecito said yes, Staff Accountant Thomson had accounted for that.

Motion: To approve the MMED FY19 Operations Budget (Trowbridge/Delvecchio) Passes 5/0

FY19 Capital Budget- Manager Sollecito began reviewing the Capital Budget with the Board by stating the four primary objectives which he feels are very important. They are to maintain a safe working environment; to invest in reliability; to provide affordable and competitive rates and to provide financial benefits to the Town of Mansfield. He said the expenses for this budget are broken down by labor expenses; outside resources; vehicle hours; timeline to complete and total cost estimate. Projects are classified as one time projects; recurring projects; billable projects and general plant improvements. The total cost of the FY19 capital budget is \$3,278,300. Manager Sollecito then reviewed each of the projects. Also included was a five year plan as well as a vehicle replacement list. Clerk Schoonveld thanked Manager Sollecito for the five year projection which he had previously requested.

**Motion: To approve the MMED FY19 Capital Budget
(Trowbridge/Delvecchio) Passes 5/0**

Update on Mansfield Community Assistance Fund- Manager Sollecito said that a press release regarding the Mansfield Community Assistance Fund will be going out the week after next. MMED will have donation envelopes printed and credit card payments will be accepted too.

Clerk Schoonveld suggested that December is a good time to solicit donations as people are thinking about charitable donations for tax purposes at that time.

RP3 Gold Member Designation- Manager Sollecito said that a press release would be going out tomorrow announcing that MMED has earned a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) award. He stated that it lasts for three years and that this is MMED's second time receiving it. He said this award is due to the hard work and dedication of every employee as well as the Board members who support the investment back into the system.

Update on Lighttower Negotiations/High Speed Internet Bandwidth- Manager Sollecito told the Board that he has successfully completed negotiations with Lighttower. MMED has agreed to transfer ownership of two fiber optic cables to Lighttower. In return MMED will receive \$75 per fiber mile lease instead of the previous \$39.15 per fiber mile. The Town will also get three years of bandwidth for free after which it will be at a discounted rate. This will be contracted through MMED who will bill the Town for any expenses incurred.

Clerk Schoonveld asked if MMED owns the poles and Director Sollecito answered they are joint owners of all poles. Clerk Schoonveld wondered if there were policies about what can be hung on the poles as he had taken something off a pole while standing at his son's bus stop. Manager Sollecito said that was the correct thing to do.

In regards to the resident with the LED lighting issue, Clerk Schoonveld hoped they addressed it for everyone with that issue who did not come forward.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the following reasons:

- A) Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 164, Section 47D and M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21, 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) To approve Executive Session minutes of April 2, 2018 at which the Chairman invoked Exemption 10, to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information related to contract negotiations with Lightower, the disclosure of which will adversely affect the Commission's ability to conduct business in relation to other entities and the Chair so declared.
- C) To vote to possibly release approved minutes from October 23, 2017 and December 20, 2017 at which the Chair invoked Section 21, 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.
- D) To vote to possibly release approved minutes from December 20, 2017 and January 29, 2018 at which the Chair invoked, 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.

(Schoonveld/Delvecchio) Passes 5/0

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

Chairman Aptowitz then said one executive session issue may require the Board to come back to open session. He thought another motion and vote needed to be taken, saying they may possibly return to open session.

Motion: To enter into executive session with the possibility of coming back to open session

(Schoonveld/Trowbridge) Passes 5/0

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

Respectfully submitted: Jacqueline Lee



Signature of Clerk



Date of Approval