

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2020

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman

Chuck Clinch

Jim Kelley

Tim Houten

Jim Carbone

Michael Cloutier, Manager

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the agenda as written. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Jim Kelley motioned to approve the minutes of December 18, 2019 as written. Tim Houten seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Financials:

Power supply is tracking very well. Cost per KWH remains consistent at \$0.091. We will start taking delivery of some of the spot market power that we bought earlier at a good price. Mr. Cloutier predicts that 2020 will show similar numbers for the power supply. Capacity will come down in price. The next capacity auction will be in February and this will determine what three years out from now will be.

Cash position is very healthy. We made money on our investments and this trend follows through to December. We will finish with a strong financial picture that we maintained all year. We will just about fully fund our OPEP trust and that will help to keep our net income down.

Overall usage is down about 1.7 million KWH this year. Much of this is due to August 2018 using 1 million more than this August due to the high temperatures in 2018.

We have given two rebates of \$1,000.00 for heat pumps. Presently, there are over 20 electric vehicles in Town. Eight of them are Tesla's. We have not had any requests for charging stations in Town.

Manager's Report:

Rail Trail website explains the history of the rail trail and acknowledged that the land was purchased and owned by MELD. In the future, Mr. Cloutier may ask them to add "When electric trucks are on the trail, it may be closed for safety reasons."

Newspaper article is scheduled to come out this week. The reporter, Wendall Waters, told Mr. Cloutier it would be a two-part article. The first part would be a story about public power and its advantages, and the second part would be about our efficiency and solar power.

Bill Fraher has started our audit.

There is an issue with the Essex Retirement Board regarding the Light Up Navaho Project. They feel it is not a covered activity should an employee get injured or killed. Other retirement boards are okay with it as long as the linemen are doing the same work as performed here. Mr. Cloutier is in the process of looking into it along with some other managers and hopes to have a resolution soon.

Next meeting: February 12, 2020.

Chairman Twiss motioned to go into Executive Session under MA General Laws, Chapter 38, Section 21A, Sub-section 2, to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel, General Manager and not return to regular session. Clerk, Mr. Carbone took a roll call vote at 5:30PM to go into Executive Session. Mr. Kelley, Mr. Clinch, Chairman Twiss, Mr. Houten and Mr. Carbone all voted yay.

Respectively submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk