

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2020

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman

Jim Kelley

Tim Houten

Jim Carbone

Michael Cloutier, Manager

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:06PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the agenda as written. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the minutes of October 21, 2020 as written. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Financials:

Tracking well in the power supply. There is now a page reflecting what we pay for the batteries service and what we pay to dispatch the batteries. We missed the March peak with the batteries and may have missed October also because of the snow-covered panels. Even if we don't hit another peak, we will still be in the black. September power cost was \$0.098 and the YTD cost is \$0.082. This cost will probably go up in the next few months. The Balance Sheet is showing healthy numbers. We had a reasonable profit of net \$26K. Even though investments were down \$156K in September, the YTD is strong.

Manager's Report:

The first part of the rail trail is just about done. It needs some benches and signs. The gates are being installed. Flashing lights at Essex Street will be solar powered and MELD will help to install. They are now looking for grants for the next phase from Central Street to Maple Street. If it can be included in the grant, MELD will take down the steel towers.

Although they have been in contact, we have had no decision feedback from Verizon regarding the poles.

Metering project is going well. Dave likes the system. He is trying to get more meters but not having any luck. We will be having a conference call Friday with the company. Dave wants to get the commercial side finished.

Derek Fullerton called Mr. Cloutier and asked if MELD would help install lights for the ballfield behind Howe Manning. Mr. Cloutier wanted to know if the Commissioners would agree. MELD would donate labor and stock we have on hand. The Commissioners agreed to support.

Billing software is now accessed remotely from a server in Maine. Everything is working and the bugs are being worked out. We now have new computers with Windows 10.

Mr. Cloutier was in touch with the Call Center regarding the outage notification. Mr. Cloutier listened to the old message and made changes. It now will say "This is the answering service for the MELD" and for liability purposes the 911 message is first and then the message "If you are calling regarding an outage, please press one". It will then pick up. The dig safe number will be given and also the MELD office hours. There is a tab on our website telling how to report an outage. It states not to report an outage online but to call the office seven days a week at 978-774-4313.

An article in the Salem News announced that Danvers and several other municipal

light departments signed an historic PPA. Middleton was inadvertently not mentioned. Mr. Cloutier called Mr. Tzimirangas and he found out it was a mistake made by the development company. Their PR team listed Merrimac twice and did not list Middleton. They sent it out to the news agencies before discovering the mistake. They resent the correction almost immediately, but the Salem News had already picked up the first article and used that. Mr. Cloutier spoke with Vin Ragucci and John and it was decided that we would work with the PR team from First Power. We are going to post on the Town Facebook page the picture of everybody masked and holding the flag with the caption "MELD signed a historic Power Purchase Contract." There will also be a link to bring you to a new tab on our website for news. This will discuss the signing of the historic PPA and will mention our electric vehicle program, our rebate program, our battery project and our solar project. This page will be updated whenever we do news- worthy projects.

Next meeting: December 16, 2020

Tim Houten motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:00PM.

Respectively submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk