

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2021

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 5:08PM.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Jim Kelley motioned to approve the minutes of September 15, 2021, as written. Jim Carbone seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Financials:

Power supply shows low KWH numbers in August. Last year's numbers were actually lower. High sales spread out our fixed costs a little bit more. We are on track compared to 2020. We were only \$0.004 higher than 2020. It will get a little more expensive in November and December. Total power costs for the year are \$5.6mil which are \$331K higher than 2020. We also purchased 1mil more KWH.

Investments are all doing well. We are up about \$2mil in our fund accounts from last year. Cash is up from 2020 by \$900K. We are also up \$600K from 2020 in investment income and the total net income is up \$362K. Even without the interest income our net income would be just under a million dollars.

Mr. Cloutier included in the packets a chart showing ATC Historical Weekly Prices. Pricing of megawatt hours has been relatively flat all year but has recently spiked up significantly. Costs in 2022 will be higher but we have only 15% of our energy exposed to the spot market. Mr. Cloutier is holding off purchasing at the higher rate as it is starting to trend down. We may see some surprises in January and February, but we should not have to raise rates.

Manager's Report:

The 13th annual Linemen's Rodeo on September 21st was a success. MELD team included Brendan, Mike and TJ. They placed 2nd place overall. They lost getting first place because they took only 11 minutes longer than the first-place team to complete the events. The team won 1st place in the obstacle course, 2nd place in the speed climb and 2nd place in the change out. Line Forman Chuck Clinch and Commissioner Jim Kelley were two of the judges. NEPPA is thinking of moving the event to May and maybe to another venue.

MELD received a Special Recognition award from the State House and a Citation from the State Senate for Sustainable Educational Programs we provide to Middleton students through the R F Gouley Co.

The Navajo Nation also sent us a plaque of appreciation for our willingness to offer assistance in their effort to expand the distribution systems to families that never had power before. We had signed up, but it did not happen due to COVID.

NEPPA awarded the Mutual Aid Service Award to Kenny Rollins for his significant sustained contribution to the association's mutual aid program. This was the first time this award was presented.

Paul Goodwin of the DPW and Kenny Rollins are in the planning process of removing the gravel from the end of Oak Road and putting it on either side of the Webb Street rail trail. They are hoping to get it completed by the end of the year.

ENE formed a partnership with Vineyard Wind contingent on them being selected by the State solicitation process for wind power.

An ad was placed at NEPPA for the engineering position. We received three replies. All three are qualified. Only one has sent back the application and this applicant is very qualified. Mr. Cloutier will leave the ad in for another few weeks and then will start to interview.

The Kiley bucket truck is going to be entered into an auction at the beginning of December. JJ Kane Auctioneers has it up on their website preauction for \$150K. It is going to be difficult to replace as there is currently a two-year lead time. The specs are almost complete. It will be a smaller chassis with four-wheel drive and a 30' lateral reach.

The Co-op operating agreement is getting final revisions and should be received back soon. Looking to having one more meeting in November.

Next meeting: November 8, 2021

Tim Houten motioned to adjourn at 5:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk