

Middleton Electric Light Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
April 24, 2024

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 5:06PM.

***Approval of Agenda:***

**Motion:**

**Chuck Clinch motioned to approve the agenda as written. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motioned carried 5-0.**

***Approval of Minutes:***

**Motion:**

**Chuck Clinch motioned to approve the minutes of March 27, 2024, as written. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

***Financials:***

Power supply was holding steady at \$0.09. This leads us into a favorable income statement. We are doing better than 2023. Mr. Cloutier is considering going down on the PPAC and the Energy Charge, as we are looking at a healthy forecast. Interest income was up in February. Reserve accounts and cash are also healthy. However, we will be drawing down the cash to pay for the new truck that was purchased this year. Our current fleet is in good shape. All aspects of our financials are going well.

***Manager's Report:***

Since our last meeting we have had three brief outages. On April 4, 2024, we had a very windy day which led to a broken line side cap on a cutout on Lewis Drive. Later that day we had another broken line side tap on North Main Street. MELD is looking into how this may be prevented in the future. The third outage was a service taken down by a tree on The Greenway. This affected only one customer.

Mr. Cloutier had a meeting with the architect today and received the second revision of the plans. We are getting closer to a final version with just a couple of things to revise. The timeline we are looking at to go out to bid is this fall, with construction in the spring. We are looking to add a bay on the end, bumping out the linemen's room wall, putting an overhang on the back, rehabbing three bathrooms, and adding a janitor's closet with a sink, refrigerator, and ice machine.

Mr. Cloutier and Manole met with ENE, Bruce Tarr, Brad Jones and Sally Kerans regarding funding opportunities for the generator at the Town complex. They each had some ideas, and we will be following up with them. The Select Board is in favor of the project. They understand the financial savings impact, and the fact that with the generator the Town Hall and Senior Center building can be used as an emergency shelter if necessary. The Building Committee is working on finding a location. Justin will be speaking to the developer and get things back on track. They were concerned about the generator noise. The Committee questioned the noise, and it was revealed that the ambient noise from Route 114 is between 80-90 decibels at 100 feet. The proposed generator is 65 decibels at 50 feet. Also, the size of the generator was questioned. As it is proposed to be placed among the buildings, it should minimize the impact of the aesthetic views of the complex.

APPA recognized MELD with a Certificate of Excellence in Reliability. This acknowledges that MELD has significantly exceeded the 5-year average for all U.S. electric utilities for reliable electric service. Our average outage time was 57 minutes a year compared to 148 minutes a year for all U.S. electric utilities. Our performance has put us in the top 25% in the nation.

The DPU Report is just about done. It will be ready for signature in the next few weeks.

Next meeting: April 24, 2024.

Chuck Clinch left the meeting, so the Commissioners can discuss the proposed employee increases.

Mr. Cloutier stated the employees were happy with the proposal and requested a motion be made to accept the proposal as written in the minutes.

**Motion:**

**Tim Houten made the motion to adopt the raises and other changes as discussed at the last meeting, raises of 6% in 2024, 4% in 2025 and 4% in 2026.**

**Change the longevity payments to the following:**

<b>5 years</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>10 years</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>15 years</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>20 years</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>25 years</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>

**Sunday and Holiday – Double Time applied to minimum 4-hour callout.**

**Emergency Storm Work Premium shall be one- and one-half times the employee’s regular straight time rate portal to portal.**

**Office personnel annual stipend for use of personal vehicle from \$500 to \$650.**

**Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

Next meeting: May 29. 2024

**Chairman Twiss motioned to go into Executive Session and to not reconvene the open session. A roll call vote at 5:55PM. Tim Houten, Jim Carbone, Jim Kelley, Frank Twiss were all “yes”. Motion carried 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone

Clerk