

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2025

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman
Tim Houten
Jim Carbone
Kenny Rollins
Michael Cloutier, Manager

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to approve the minutes of April 23, 2025, as amended. Jim Carbone seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Twiss congratulated and welcomed to the board, Kenny Rollins

Financials:

March was better than January and February. The income statement shows a loss of \$51,998.16 but when we back out the negative interest income, it indicates a positive net income of \$134,568.51. Purchase power prices were down in March.

This was the result of the gas prices being down and as the temperatures were not as cold, there was less power consumption. The cost per kWh for March was \$0.103 and the YTD cost per kWh is \$0.11. By 2030 we will have to be 50% non-emitting. This will cause the costs to go up and the rates to rise. Everything is tracking well, and our cash position is good. We do have some large expenses coming with the MELD building renovations and the Town Complex generator. The generator will have a relatively short payback period once it is online.

Manager's Report:

We have had three outages since our last meeting. April 29th there was a transformer overload that needed to be replaced. It was replaced within four hours. On May 3rd there were five momentary outages caused by a recloser belonging to National Grid. On May 20th there was an outage on Useadoor Street due to a squirrel. The cutout doors were closed and about an hour later more calls came in for another outage on Putnam Street also due to a squirrel.

In order to go to the Legislature with a home rule petition, the Lineman's Law exemption would have to go through the Town meeting. As we have one customer with a North Reading address, Mr. Cloutier found out we can do a simple late file. This will help us to move forward more quickly.

The Town is putting together a Middleton Citizens Academy for residents to learn about the operations of each department. It will be held from September 2025 to mid-November 2025. The Commissioners and Mr. Cloutier discussed our participation, and it was decided that due to the MELD building renovation being done in the same time frame, it would not be advisable to participate this year. Mr. Cloutier will let Town Hall know.

As previously discussed, we are looking into selling our interest in the Stonybrook Intermediate plant. Twenty-four years ago, we used to get 5% of our energy from Stonybrook. In 2024, we only got 50K kWh from this facility, which is a big drop; it is no longer an energy play for us. The facility is now 50 years old, and market conditions have changed significantly. It runs on gas but on oil in the winter. It is also susceptible to fines of \$9K per kWh under ISO-NE's pay for performance program. This happens when they cannot get online quickly enough during

scarcity events and could be very costly. Littleton was able to find a buyer for their share.

CAT did send us a submittal for the generator project that we needed to design the pad and the gas line. PLM has been hired to do the work but won't have plans ready until the end of June. We are a little behind but have been really pushing to get the project going.

We have finalized the plans for the MELD building project and will be advertising for bids tomorrow. The construction should start at the end of August.

GML has hired Robin Jowders to help expand the business. She has already greatly increased the glove testing jobs.

GML has arranged for a strategic meeting with all the owners then an information session for the Commissioners. The GML board will meet in Groveland on June 18, 2025. Following that, there will be an educational dinner for the GML members' Commissioners.

NEPPA Conference, August 17th – 20th, let Mr. Cloutier know if you are going and if so, when you will arrive.

Next meeting: June 11, 2025

Jim Carbone motioned to adjourn at 5:50PM. Kenny Rollins seconded motion. Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk