

**SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Present for the Board: Chair John Hine, Vice Chair Denise Presley, Paul Dobosh, Ron Coutu, Kurt Schenker

Present for SHELD: General Manager Sean Fitzgerald, Financial Manager Michael Conchieri, Administrative Specialist Kim Mendoza

The special virtual meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chair Hine, who stated there were a couple of items that needed to be addressed.

2024 Budget Approval:

Mr. Hine stated that the 2024 Budget was presented at the November 30, 2023 meeting by Michael Conchieri but the budget approval was not voted on at that time.

Mr. Coutu motioned, and Mr. Dobosh seconded, on the motion as stated by Chair Hine, to approve the 2024 SHELD budget as presented at the November 30, 2023 meeting, by roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Ratification of the General Manager's 8th Amendment Contract:

The Board met in executive session on December 28, 2023, to discuss an increase in Mr. Fitzgerald's salary. After much discussion, a vote was taken in open session, but it was not binding, and the Board needed to ratify that vote.

Mr. Hine asked for a motion to approve the 8th Amendment to the General Manager's contract. He stated that no changes could be made without going back into executive session, so they were just going to vote on the 8th amendment.

Mr. Dobosh motioned, and Mr. Schenker seconded, to approve the 8th Amendment to the General Managers' contract.

Mr. Coutu read a prepared comment. He commented on the fiduciary responsibility of the Board and the 8th amendment doesn't meet that responsibility. The Board should be mindful of how they are spending rate-payer money, and they should not be paying higher salaries to keep the General Manager or any other staff from leaving. He will be voting against the amendment and if it passes. He will not sign it.

Mr. Hine stated he thought the decision to ratify the 8th amendment was in the best interest of SHELD. The General Manager has done an outstanding job. SHELD is in an

outstanding position for long-term growth, and he feels it's in the best interest of the organization to keep Mr. Fitzgerald here.

A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Coutu-opposed, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Hine-aye. The motion passed 4 to 1.

Adjourn:

On a motion by Mr. Coutu, seconded by Mr. Dobosh, it was
VOTED: To adjourn the open meeting by a roll call vote: Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

The open session ended at 6:07 P.M.



Paul Dobosh, Light Board Clerk

Approved: January 25, 2024