

**SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' VIRTUAL MEETING  
APRIL 28, 2022, AT 5:00 P.M.**

Present for the Board: Gregory Dubreuil, John Hine, Denise Presley, Paul Dobosh, Kurt Schenker (arrived 5:03)

Present for SHELD: General Manager Sean Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant Kim Mendoza, Financial Manager Michael Conchieri, Sr Engineer Mark Gilmore

Guest: Attorney Lisa Brodeur-McGan

The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chairman Dubreuil.

On a motion by Mr. Hine, seconded by Ms. Presley, it was VOTED: To move to executive session to investigate and consider the filing of criminal complaints and return to Open Session at approximately 6:00PM, by a roll call vote: Mr. Hine – aye, Ms. Presley – aye, Mr. Dobosh – aye, Mr. Dubreuil – aye.

The open session reconvened at 6:02 PM. Chairman Dubreuil congratulated Ms. Presley and Mr. Dobosh for being elected to the Board.

**Reorganization of the Board:**

Chairman Dubreuil explained the process for nominating and voting for officers. For Chair, Mr. Dubreuil nominated Mr. Hine, who accepted the nomination. There was a unanimous roll call vote for Mr. Hine as Chair: Mr. Hine-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Dubreuil-aye.

New Chairman Hine asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Mr. Dubreuil nominated Ms. Presley, who accepted. There was a unanimous roll call vote for Mr. Presley as Vice-Chair: Mr. Dubreuil-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Chairman Hine asked for nominations for Secretary and nominated Mr. Dubreuil, who accepted. There was a unanimous roll call vote for Mr. Dubreuil as Secretary: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Dubreuil-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

**Audit Committee:**

Chairman Hine asked for 2 volunteers to be on the audit committee to meet with the auditors, to review the audit, before it is presented to the Board. Mr. Dobosh and Mr. Dubreuil volunteered.

**Legal Opinion 131 Woodbridge St:**

This topic was tabled for tonight.

**Minutes Approval:**

3/24/2022 Open Session:

On a motion by Mr. Dubreuil, seconded Mr. Schenker, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the open session of the March 24, 2022, virtual meeting, by a roll call vote: Mr. Dubreuil – aye, Mr. Dobosh abstained, Mr. Schenker – aye, Ms. Presley – aye, Mr. Hine – aye.

3/24/2022 Executive Session:

On a motion by Mr. Dubreuil, seconded Mr. Schenker, it was

VOTED: To accept the Board of Commissioners’ executive session virtual meeting minutes of March 24, 2022, and not release, by a roll call vote: Mr. Schenker - aye, Ms. Presley – aye, Mr. Dubreuil – aye, Mr. Dobosh abstained Mr. Hine – aye.

**Public Comment:**

There were none.

**Manager’s Report:**

Outages:

There were two outages this past month, both due to squirrels. On April 18, 713 customers experienced an 18-minute outage in the Old Lyman Rd Area. Typically, this would have been less than a 1 second blip, however Eversource was conducting transmission work at that time which locked out the circuit for the safety of the line workers. The second, 26-minute outage on Pittroff Avenue affected 94 customers.

Fibersonic Update:

There are currently 1425 connected fiber customers, with several pending installs, and 255 phone customers.

Also, SHELd recently signed an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) with the Town of Shutesbury to become their ISP (internet service provider) They are already constructed, so this will not interfere with any of the ongoing construction in South Hadley. There will be 700 additional customers rolled into our billing system and third-party run help desk work. We can absorb the 700 customers with our current staffing and will not require any additional hiring at this time. We will also provide maintenance service for them, for a fee, as included in the agreement, if needed.

Council on Aging Thank You Letter:

SHELd received a thank you letter from the South Hadley Council on Aging executive director Leslie Hennessey. SHELd provided a rebate for the cost of installing an electric vehicle charging station located at the new Council on Aging building. Ms. Hennessey specifically thanked our Senior Engineer Mark Gilmore for his help and guidance throughout the process. Mr. Fitzgerald also thanked Mr. Gilmore for his efforts to further our strategic plan of enhancing the quality of life in South Hadley. This is the first charging station in South Hadley, and we will continue to look for opportunities. Mr. Gilmore believes there will be action on additional charging stations in the next few months.

Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Investment Award:

The DOE late last week announced plans to award up to \$1.6 million over three years for programs that provide local communities with educational resources regarding the benefits of nuclear power. The Biden administration has requested approximately \$480,000 in fiscal year 2022 to fund the program. The DOE identified four areas of focus for the grants:

- The development of resources and educational materials for the community and local government officials;
- The creation of partnerships with organizations and communities at the frontlines of the energy transition who are impacted by and/or interested in nuclear energy and its fuel cycle;
- The development of materials for educators to help students understand the basics of nuclear science and encourage careers in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) fields; and
- The funding of fellowships for international students to study nuclear engineering at American universities, national labs, and with industry partners;

The Biden administration has identified the current fleet of 93 reactors as a vital resource to achieve net-zero emissions economy wide by 2050. Nuclear power currently provides 52 percent of the nation's carbon-free electricity.

**Annual Town Disbursement Transfer:**

Mr. Hine stated that SHEL D transfers funds to the Town annually for work it conducts on SHEL D's behalf. SHEL D's annual 2021 reimbursement to the Town was for \$180,000 for services provided by the Town. Mr. Fitzgerald recommended to the Board that SHEL D provide the same reimbursement in 2022.

On a motion by Mr. Dubreuil, seconded Mr. Schenker, it was unanimously VOTED: to continue to level fund the 2022 Transfer to the Town, by a roll call vote: Mr. Dubreuil – aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Schenker - aye, Ms. Presley – aye, Mr. Hine – aye.

**Performance Evaluation Process Renewal:**

Ms. Presley stated she had looked at the GM's goals and performance evaluation for this year and, since it was late in the year and the Strategic Plan was up for revision in another year, she thought it was best to reduce the number of goals this year. Mr. Fitzgerald had prepared a list of achievable measurable goals for 2022 and suggested that they have Steve VanderMeer, who initially helped the Board with SHEL D's goals for the Strategic Plan, return for a meeting with the Board, staff and ratepayers to review it. He said he would reach out to Mr. VanderMeer for a couple of dates in the fall.

On a motion by Mr. Dubreuil, seconded Mr. Schenker, it was unanimously VOTED: adopt the 2022 GM goals and performance evaluation renewal update as presented to the Board by a roll call vote: Ms. Presley – aye, Mr. Dubreuil – aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Schenker - aye, Mr. Hine – aye.

**Old Business:**

There was none.

**New Business:**

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that SHELD is in process of considering participation in MMWEC's 100MW battery storage project and will need a special meeting called between now and the May MLB meeting, to present the project to the Board, as the deadline is approaching. MMWEC will present the proforma and due to its competitive nature, the meeting will be required to be in executive session. It will be in front of the meter and provide capacity.

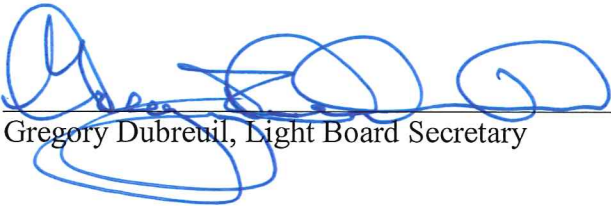
Mr. Hine suggested Thursday May 12 at 6:00PM. The other members said they could meet that day.

Mr. Dobosh mentioned the new Master Plan and Channel 15 needs funding. Mr. Hine said they could talk about it at the next meeting.

**Adjourn:**

On a motion by Mr. Dubreuil and seconded by Mr. Dobosh, the meeting was unanimously VOTED: to adjourn by a roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Schenker - aye, Ms. Presley – aye, Mr. Dubreuil – aye, Mr. Hine – aye.

The open session ended at 6:34P.M.



Gregory Dubreuil, Light Board Secretary

Approved: May 26, 2022

EXHIBIT A

List of Documents reviewed at the April 28, 2022, Municipal Light Board Meeting

1. Draft Open Session Minutes March 24, 2022
2. Draft Executive Session Minutes March 24, 2022
3. Council on Aging Thank You Letter
4. 2022 GM Goals and Performance Evaluation Process Update