

**SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' VIRTUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2023, AT 4:30 P.M.**

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

Present for SHELD: General Manager Sean Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant Kim Mendoza,
Sr. Accountant Christopher Geraghty

The virtual meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M. by Chairman Hine.

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh, seconded by Ms. Presley, it was

VOTED: To move to Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 47D, for purposes of discussing trade secrets, confidential, competitively sensitive, or other propriety information, and under purpose 7 to comply with the provisions Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 22(f) and (g) to review executive session meeting minutes to reconvene in Open Session at approximately 6:00.

The open session reconvened at 6:00PM.

Minutes Approval:

12/20/2022 Executive Session:

On a motion by Ms. Presley and seconded by Mr. Dobosh, it was unanimously.

VOTED: To approve and release the executive session meeting minutes of December 20, 2022, by a roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

1/26/2023 Open Session:

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh and seconded by Ms. Presley, it was unanimously.

VOTED: To approve the minutes of January 26, 2023 meeting, by a roll call vote: Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Executive Session Minutes Review:

Mr. Hine explained that the Board will vote on an action they took in executive session. The Board reviewed previously held executive session minutes and will vote to release five sets of minutes that were reviewed by SHELD legal counsel. He asked for a motion.

Mr. Dobosh moved, and Ms. Presley seconded,

VOTED: To accept the release of minutes as discussed in the previous executive session as they were stated then, by a roll call vote: Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Public Comment:

There were none.

Manager's Report:**Outages:**

There were several outages in February, affecting less than 300 customers. The most challenging outages occurred on February 3rd and February 4th when high winds caused tree and pole damage. While the outages were not wide scale, the weather conditions were severe with wind chills that could potentially cause frost bite. He thanked the crews for working in the harsh conditions.

Fiber:

There are 23 completed fiberhoods. Currently construction is ongoing on Hadley Street and Brock Way. Aerial construction scheduled for this year includes West Summit, Summit and Upper River Road. There are currently 3300 total Fiberspring customers. The overall take rate is at 41%. Since the weather has been mild, we are still constructing and expect to finish on schedule by July 2024. The Hadley Street fiberhood will be lit up once a network operations conversion at the new fiber hut is completed.

November 2022 Financials:

Mr. Chris Geraghty referenced PowerPoint slides as he gave a brief overview of the financials for the month ending November 30, 2022

Kilowatt hour sales of 102,983,000 for 2022 were up by 1.7 % from 2021 or 1,759,000 kilowatt hours. Year-to-date operating revenues of \$13,668,000 were up from 2021 by 4.7% or about \$618,000, consisting of an increase of \$227,000 in volume and an increase of \$391,000 in selling price. We had budgeted for a \$54,000 revenue increase; the actual was a \$564,000 increase.

The 2022 kilowatt hour purchases of 104,739,000 were up by 1.7% from 2021, or 1.8 million. The 2022 cost of power sold of \$9,693,000 was up by about 15.9% from 2021, or \$1,331,000, consisting of an increase of \$146,000 in kilowatt hour purchase volume, and an increase of \$1,185,000 in purchase price. We had budgeted for a cost decrease of \$913,000; the actual was a \$2.2 million increase.

The increase in revenue was less than the increase in the cost of power sold; therefore, the net revenue of \$5,580,000 was down from 2021 by \$104,000. The actual net revenue was down from the budgeted amount by \$1,230,000.

All other 2022 operating expenses of \$6,313,000 on a combined basis, were up from 2021 by about \$129,000 and down from the budgeted amount by \$220,000.

November 2022 ended with a net YTD loss of about \$1,630,000, compared to the 2021 net loss of \$386,000 and was down from the budgeted amount of a \$528,000 profit.

MMWEC Designation of Voting Representative Vote:

Mr. Fitzgerald explained the MMWEC Designation of Voting Representatives form designates who can vote if Mr. Fitzgerald is not available to vote at a MMWEC meeting. The Board reviewed the form.

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh and seconded by Ms. Presley, it was unanimously.
VOTED: To accept the designation of voting representative and alternates as listed, by a roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Strategic Plan

Mr. Fitzgerald sent the Board a copy of the updated text for the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. If the Board approves, it will be completed and published after the Board reviews the final copy. Mr. Hine asked about Mr. Fitzgerald's final goal list. Mr. Fitzgerald said he would resend it to the Board for review. Mr. Dobosh and Ms. Presley discussed topics that could affect SHEL D's future, like nuclear power and the future of energy, and how SHEL D could address these possible future challenges and make customers aware of the discussions. Mr. Fitzgerald said that SHEL D could develop an integrated resource plan to address these topics.

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh and seconded by Ms. Presley, it was unanimously.
VOTED: To approve the Strategic Plan as presented, by a roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Employee Survey:

Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed the 2022 results of the Employee Survey, under the Strategic Plan initiative of Workforce, and compared results to the previous three years' results in job duties, supervisor, management, company, and benefits. All categories scored between a 4.0-5.0. Communication continues to need improvement, which is not uncommon, and SHEL D continues to work on improving that with training.

Old Business:

There was none.

New Business:

Mr. Hine asked about remote meeting status. Ms. Mendoza said it will be expiring but she hasn't seen any update from the State yet.

Adjourn:

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

The open session ended at 6:41 P.M.



Paul Dobosh, Light Board Secretary

Approved: March 23, 2023

EXHIBIT A

List of Documents reviewed at the February 23, 2023, Municipal Light Board Meeting

1. Draft Executive Session Minutes December 20, 2022
2. Draft Open Session Minutes January 26, 2023
3. Management Report Financial Statement November 30, 2022
4. Strategic Plan Draft
5. 2022 Employee Survey