

South Hadley Electric Light Town of South Hadley

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NOTICE UNDER MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 20

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of South Hadley Electric Light Department will be held at **6:30 P.M. on Thursday, Sept 22th, 2016**, in the Selectboard Meeting Room at 116 Main Street, South Hadley, Massachusetts.

AT THE ORDER OF ANNE S. AWAD,
CHAIR OF THE BOARD



Anne S. Awad, Chair

PGB

MEETING AGENDA

Public Comment

RET (Renewable Energy Trust) insert to mailing of bills

Fiber Optics Committee update

SHELD's purchase price of 5.5 cents/kwh for PPA solar installations

Minutes approval

Renewable Energy Trust

ENERGY.GOV

The SHELD Municipal Light Board is considering joining the Renewable Energy Trust and would like to hear from SHELD customers as to whether or not we should do so.

The Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust Fund provides grants, contracts, loans, equity investments, energy production credits, bill credits, and rebates to customers of electric utilities. The fund supports the development and use of renewable energy, which generally includes, among other sources, solar photovoltaics (PV), solar thermal electric energy, wind energy, and fuel cells utilizing renewable fuels. The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, a publicly-funded research and development agency, is responsible for the Fund. Information on the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center can be found at www.masscec.com.



The Fund is supported by a surcharge of \$0.0005 per kilowatt-hour (0.5 mill/kWh), charged to customers of all investor-owned electric utilities and competitive municipal utilities in Massachusetts. Non-competitive municipal utilities, such as SHELD, may join the Fund by agreeing to the same provisions that apply to investor-owned utilities and competitive municipal utilities. The impact on an average residential customer who uses 600 kWh per month would be \$3.60 for the year.

If you are interested in learning more or expressing an opinion, please contact Municipal Light Board Chair Anne Awad by email at aawad@sheld.org or by telephone at 413-519-2224 by October 21, 2016.

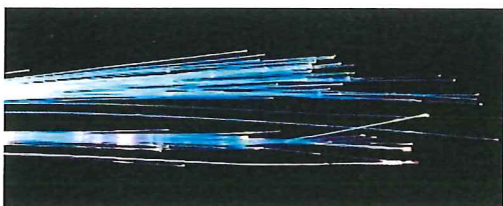
New Truck

As part of SHELD's commitment to maintaining safe and reliable services, management staff continuously evaluates our equipment to keep inventory up-to-date. A new 2016 Ford 550 Super Duty truck was purchased this summer, replacing a 1997 bucket truck. Watch for it about town this fall.



Bill Paying Made Easier

In our effort to make bill paying as convenient as possible, you can now pay your bill online. Go to www.sheld.org/billing. Under "Quick Links", click on "pay online/manage your account" and follow the directions. By January 1, 2017, you will be able to pay your bill using a credit card by coming into the SHELD office.



Fiber Optics

The Board has reconvened the Fiber Optics Committee to continue exploring ways to extend fiber optics capability to homes, businesses,

and government offices in South Hadley. After a temporary halt in the Committee's work, we are now exploring ways to move forward in finding companies interested in working with SHELD to develop this project.

Manager Search

The Board of Commissioners is in the process of hiring a new General Manager. The Board has engaged Mycoff, Fry and Prouse, an executive search firm which specializes in searches for utility management nationally and has done successful searches for new managers for five Massachusetts municipal electric companies in the last few years. The search includes advertising and outreach to professional associations, individuals, membership groups, and other entities where utility professionals might be found. The Board will be meeting with the search consultant in October to review applications and schedule initial interviews for November/December. The Board will hold public meetings, conduct final interviews in public, and ask final candidates to spend a day with staff and townspeople to assess for a good match. We will be keeping you informed as the search moves forward.

New Staff

SHELD is pleased to welcome Mark Gilmore who joined SHELD as Senior Engineer in August and Kim Mendoza who joined the administrative staff in September.

Mr. Gilmore comes with extensive experience as Senior Engineer at Eversource and fills a crucial planning and leadership role for the SHELD team and community residents and ratepayers. Ms. Mendoza brings a wide range of experience in administrative support, office and building management, scheduling, and project coordination.

We are delighted to welcome them to the SHELD family.

Audit

As most of you know, SHELD had an audit of its 2015 financial statements this year. The audit was performed by Melanson Heath & CO, P.C., and the report presented to the public and the Commissioners at the July 28, 2016, Municipal Light Board meeting. SHELD received an unqualified opinion (the best) on our financial statements and the auditors found no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control. The auditors did suggest improvements that could be made in several of the Department's procedures. All of the suggested improvements have been or are in the process of being implemented. The auditors' reports are posted on SHELD's website and we encourage you all to read them.

Board of Commissioners

The commissioners can be contacted via email at board@sheld.org or individually:

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