

# *Electric Light Department*

## *Town of South Hadley*

85 Main Street  
South Hadley, MA 01075-2797

Telephone 413-536-1050  
Fax 413-536-0741

### **MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015, AT 4:30 P.M.**

#### ***PRESENT:***

Jeffrey Labrecque, Vice Chair  
Christine M. Archambault, Clerk  
Peter Webster, Member

#### ***Also Attending:***

Attorney John Welch  
Wayne D. Doerpholz  
Michael Conchieri  
Andrew Orr

Mr. Doerpholz announced that he was recording the meeting on behalf of the Municipal Light Board.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jeffrey Labrecque at 4:30 p.m.

#### **Minutes – October 30, 2014, November 18, 2014, December 2, 2014 and December 16, 2014**

Vice Chair Labrecque indicated that transcripts from the meetings of October 30, 2014, November 18, 2014, December 2, 2014 and December 16, 2014 have been reformatted into minutes and distributed a copy of each set of minutes to the members of the Board. He indicated that Board members should take these minutes to review and revisit at the next meeting.

#### **Minutes – September 9, 2014**

On motion made by Commissioner Archambault, seconded by Vice Chair Jeffrey Labrecque, it was unanimously voted to take off the table the minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2014. Following a discussion and on a motion made by Commissioner Archambault, seconded by Vice Chair Labrecque, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2014 as amended.

# *Electric Light Department*

*Town of South Hadley*

*MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD MEETING OF  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015, AT 4:30 P.M., continued*

## **Residential Consumer Deposit Policy**

Vice Chair Labrecque called on Michael Conchieri to provide the members of the Board with a draft Residential Consumer Deposit Policy. Mr. Conchieri indicated that the policy change would apply to residential customers who are not the property owners. Mr. Doerpholz told the Board that a survey of Municipal Light Departments that responded was also given to them. Following a discussion in which Commissioner Webster indicated it was prudent to have a written policy, it was agreed that a formal policy would be prepared and brought before the Board for a vote to approve the change.

## **Rental Water Heaters**

Vice Chair Labrecque called on Mr. Andy Orr to give an update concerning water tank rental customers. Mr. Orr told the Board members that letters have been sent and some responses have been received to date. There was no action by the Board required at this time.

## **LED Street Lighting**

Mr. Doerpholz gave an overview of the grant to replace 350 fixtures in the Town of South Hadley. He explained that adding length to existing mast arms would better utilize the new fixtures and that purchasing 1,400 fixtures, rather than simply the 350 covered by the grant, would be more cost effective. Mr. Orr explained the plans for replacement of lights and fixtures over a three year period. Following a discussion concerning the recommendations and progress for LED lighting plans, the Vice Chair requested a capital plan going forward. It was agreed that the bid proposal would be for 1,400 fixtures and that no vote was needed at this time as the bid would ultimately need Board approval once received.

## **Solar Incentives**

Vice Chair Labrecque recognized Michael Conchieri to speak about solar incentives. Mr. Conchieri explained the current incentives being offered by the federal government and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. After further discussion concerning SRECs and the rebates currently available for solar installations, it was noted that SHEL D had provided \$90,000 in solar rebates to benefit 19 customers while over the course of four years SHEL D had provided \$46,000 in appliance benefits to benefit nearly 1,000 customers. Vice Chair Labrecque recognized Mr. Walter Hamilton of 77 Hadley Street to speak about a net metering agreement for solar presently entered into by the Town of Belchertown. A discussion then followed concerning investor-owned utilities versus municipal utilities and the MMWEC agreements. A discussion then followed concerning investor-owned utilities versus municipal utilities and the MMWEC agreements for the nuclear units. Mr. Orr explained that SHEL D, unlike an investor-owned utility, continues to own its own generating resources and that these provide approximately 80 of South Hadley's power needs. Questions were asked about how long these contracts last and if these could be renegotiated. Attorney Welch explained the Purchase Power Agreements

# *Electric Light Department*

## *Town of South Hadley*

### *MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015, AT 4:30 P.M., continued*

between MMWEC and the municipal light departments. He stated that these contracts are “life of unit” agreements and are the security for the projects and the bonds used to make the investments. He added that life of unit contracts are for the generator, Seabrook and Millstone in South Hadley’s example, and that each of these units has received a 25-year life extension. Mr. Orr then explained that SHEL D offers full spin back on its net metering arrangements, not the avoided purchase power cost of the investor-owned utilities. A discussion ensued about the difference between net metering credits and solar renewable energy credits. Also discussed was the mandate that investor-owned utilities are required to purchase SRECs and open their franchise areas to competition but that municipal light departments are not required to sell their power supplies nor purchase SRECs and open their service territories.

#### **KYT Meeting – March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Commissioner Archambault was asked to discuss the upcoming Know Your Town Meeting. She told the Board that the group would be interested in informational brochures and information concerning any rebates offered through SHEL D. It was noted that Vice Chair Labrecque felt that it would be helpful to have SHEL D represented at the meeting in order to answer questions; Commissioner Archambault said she would contact Martha Terry to suggest that SHEL D be invited.

#### **Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from the Attorney General’s Office; at this time, Vice Chair Labrecque stated that the Board would need an opportunity to read and take the letter under review. A copy of the letter was then distributed to the individual Board members and, as requested, a copy was given to the reporter from the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

Mr. Doerpholz then presented a letter from the Falls Fest Committee thanking the Board for its past support and requesting that SHEL D sponsor its event(s) this year. On motion made by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Archambault, it was unanimously voted to donate One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars to be divided between the Falls Fest and Fest Forward at the Committee may determine.

#### **Next Meeting**

Vice Chair Labrecque asked if there were any specific topics that the Board members would like placed on the agenda for the next meeting. The topic of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) to the Town of South Hadley was suggested by Commissioner Archambault and Mr. Doerpholz indicated that Mr. Mike Sullivan has not contacted him. At Vice Chair Labrecque’s request, Mr. Doerpholz explained how the payment is calculated. It was agreed to hold off on any further conversation with regard to the PILOT but that it would be placed on the upcoming agenda. Vice Chair Labrecque also mentioned that the succession plan should be revisited as well as an update on fiber; Commissioner Archambault indicated that she would like to discuss training for

# *Electric Light Department*

*Town of South Hadley*

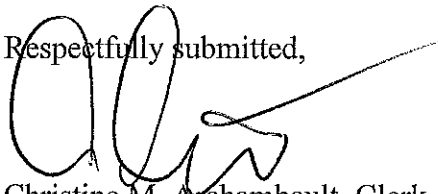
*MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD MEETING OF  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015, AT 4:30 P.M., continued*

Board members. Mr. Doerpholz informed the Board that a joint executive session with the Selectboard should be upcoming but it was agreed that an executive session of the Light Board should be scheduled for the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting prior to scheduling a joint session.

Vice Chair Labrecque reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. and set the following meeting for Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

On motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Archambault, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Archambault', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christine M. Archambault, Clerk  
Municipal Light Board

6/24/15