



**SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' VIRTUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M.**

Present for the Board: Chair John Hine, Vice Chair Paul Dobosh, Ron Coutu, Tom Terry, Kurt Schenker (arrived 6:00)

Present for SHELD: General Manager Sean Fitzgerald, Financial Manager Michael Conchieri, Director of Operations Adam St. Martin, Administrative Services Specialist Kim Mendoza

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chair John Hine who stated the Board would move to Executive Session under purpose 7 to comply with the provisions Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 22(f) and (g) to review executive session meeting minutes, and to return to open session at approximately 6:00PM.

On a motion by Mr. Coutu and seconded by Mr. Dobosh, it was unanimously VOTED: To move to executive session for the reasons stated by the Chair and return to open session at approximately 6:00 PM, by roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

The Board returned to open session at 6:00 PM.

Minutes Approval:

1/30/2025 Open Session:

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh and seconded by Mr. Terry, it was unanimously VOTED: To approve the minutes of January 30, 2025, open session, by roll call vote: Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

1/30/2025 Executive Session:

On a motion by Mr. Schenker and seconded by Mr. Dobosh, it was unanimously VOTED: To approve but not release the minutes of the executive session of January 30, 2025, by roll call vote: Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Executive Session Minutes Review for Release

On a motion by Mr. Coutu and seconded by Mr. Dobosh it was unanimously VOTED: To release, without redactions, the executive session minutes of September 27, 2018, October 25, 2018, January 24, 2019, April 23, 2020, September 22, 2020, AND to release, with redactions, the executive session minutes of February 29, 2024, June 27, 2024, December 12, 2024, by roll call vote: Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Public Comment:

There were none.

Manager's Report:

Outages: There were three outages this past month. On 2/17, 2,215 customers were impacted for 8 minutes a result of the need to open a substation breaker to repair a primary dead end at North Main Street and Judd Ave. On 2/16 an outage on Amherst Rd impacted 3 customers for 4 hours and an outage at Hadley Village impacted 55 customers for 37 minutes due to tree contact and a blown fuse.

Fiberspring Update: Fiberspring currently has 2755 South Hadley customers with a 50% take rate. We are continuing to work with Leverett and Shutesbury.

MDU Update: Fiberspring is working with Shadowbrook Association to provide targeted marketing to their residents to see if interest levels can be increased. In February Rivercrest residents voted not to move forward in support of fiber construction because of the required cost per unit. At Hadley Village, engineering, design, and estimating are underway and expected for internal review in Q2.

November 2024 Financials:

Mr. Conchieri referenced PowerPoint slides as he gave a brief overview of the financials for the month ending November 30, 2024.

Kilowatt hour sales of 100,561,000 for 2024 were up by 1.5% from 2023 or 1,487,000 kilowatt hours. Year-to-date operating revenues of \$15,801,000 were up from 2023 by 5.18% or about \$778,000, consisting of an increase of \$226,000 in volume and an increase of \$552,000 in selling price.

The 2024-kilowatt hour purchases of 104,436,000 were up by 2.08% from 2023, or 2,091,000. The 2024 cost of power sold of \$9,500,000 was up by about 3.89% from 2023, or \$355,000, consisting of an increase of \$190,000 in kilowatt hour purchase volume, and an increase of \$165,000 in purchase price.

The increase in revenue was more than the cost of power; therefore, the net revenue of \$9,974,000 was up from 2023 by 9.58% or \$872,000. The actual net revenue was up from the budgeted amount by \$312,000.

All other 2024 operating expenses of \$9,405,000 on a combined basis, were up from 2023 by about \$1,388,000 and up from the budgeted amount by \$883,000.

November 2024 ended with a net YTD gain of about \$1,222,000, compared to the 2023 net gain of \$1,381,000 and did not reach the budgeted amount of a \$1,318,000 gain.

Buttery Brook Fiber:

Mr. Hine reviewed last month's decision by the Board to support the Friends of BATTERY Brook by providing electrical work for upgrades to the pickleball court lighting and sponsorship which includes additional signs. At that time there wasn't enough information available regarding what they need for a fiber connection, so it was not discussed.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the original request was to have one-gig service to the shed building and Fiberspring can offer a Metro-E service line of one-gig to the shed to fulfill their basic needs. The Metro-E fiber can be connected for a \$199/month contract fee paid for by the "Friends" or the recreation department. There will not be an installation charge. This should be sufficient for the "Friends" requested needs. If the Town needs more service down the road in other areas of the park, it can be discussed with them and the service can be expanded. The Board doesn't need to vote as this will be a business arrangement like any other fiber business in town. Mr. Hine said the "Friends" are still fund raising so this is not happening yet, and he will reach out to the "Friends" and give them the information.

2025 Department Manager's Goals Update:

Mr. Fitzgerald sent the Board a revised list of Department Goals for 2025. The goals are aligned with the Strategic Plan initiatives and have measurable timelines for completion. He identified the redundant annual goals where SHELD's high standards need to be maintained. Mr. Coutu still had a couple of suggestions on the information and its formatting. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he was following the strategic initiatives and perhaps there needs to be changes to the framework of the initiatives when the Strategic Plan will be rewritten prior to expiring in 2027.

On a motion by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mr. Dobosh, it was unanimously
VOTED: To accept the 2025 Department Manager's Goals with the timeframes to be used in the GM performance evaluation in December, by roll call vote: Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Old Business:

There was none.

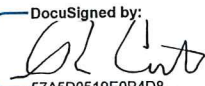
New Business:

The March 27th Light Board meeting will be virtual.

Adjourn:

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

The open session ended at 6:37 P.M.

DocuSigned by:


57A5D0519E0B4D8...

Ronald Coutu, Light Board Clerk

Approved: March 27, 2025

EXHIBIT A

List of Documents reviewed on February 27, 2025, at the Municipal Light Board Meeting

1. Draft Open Session Minutes January 30, 2025
2. Draft Executive Session Minutes January 30, 2025
3. Executive Session Minutes to be released
4. November 30, 2024, Financial Management Report
5. Updated 2025 Department Manager's Goals