



**SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' OPEN VIRTUAL MEETING
MARCH 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 5:35)

Present for SHELD: General Manager Sean Fitzgerald, 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 for purposes pursuant to M.G.L. c.164, § 47D, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property AND for the purposes of discussing trade secrets, confidential, competitively sensitive, or other propriety information pertaining to fiber projects, and return to open session at approximately 6:00PM.

On a motion by Mr. Terry, 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. Coutu-aye, Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

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

Minutes Approval:

2/27/2025 Open Session:

On a motion by Mr. Schenker, seconded by Mr. Terry, it was unanimously VOTED: To approve the minutes of February 27, 2025, open session, by roll call vote: Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

2/27/2025 Executive Session:

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh, seconded by Mr. Terry, it was unanimously VOTED: To approve and release the minutes of the executive session of February 27, 2025, by roll call vote: Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Public Comment:

There were none.

Manager's Report:

Outages: There were no electrical outages this month.

Fiberspring Update: Fiberspring currently has 2770 South Hadley customers with a 51% take rate. In tracking after hour fiber calls for January and February – there were a total of 217 calls, 59 of the calls were escalated, and there were 20 truck rolls total for the three towns. South Hadley had 123 calls, 30 escalations, and 13 truck rolls. The other calls are handled at the HELP desk level.

Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed the current construction status of 20 of the MDUs. We have engaged with their boards and for some, we are supplying marketing materials to try to increase interest to our requirement minimum of 40%.

Clean Heat Standard:

Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed the discussion from the October MLB meeting on the impact that the proposed DOER's legislation could have on SHELD and our customers. Since then, MEAM, MMWEC, Energy New England, and most Mass Senators and Representatives have met with and have written to the DOER urging them to NOT include MLPs in this draft legislation known as the Clean Heat Standard.

This week Mr. Fitzgerald represented SHELD on Beacon Hill at the MLP State House Advocacy Day. The event featured remarks by Representative Mark Cusack, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. In addition, Senator Jake Oliveira spoke in strong opposition of this legislation and its negative impacts on MLPs. The CHS would require MLPs, along with the investor-owned utilities (IOUs), to have an increasing number of heat pumps installed in their communities even though MLPs are not classified as distribution companies, like the IOUs. If the utility is not in compliance, they are subject to alternative compliance payments (ACPs) which could cost South Hadley residents \$500k in rate increases as penalties. SHELD and most MLPs are already meeting the state net zero goals of 2040, and SHELD continues to offer programs which support the state's goals without penalizing or mandating our customers.

A letter was included in the Board packet. Mr. Fitzgerald is recommending the Board approve and sign the letter to advocate for MLPs to NOT be included in this legislation. This is a letter which is being sent by the overwhelming majority of MLPs in the Commonwealth

On a motion by Mr. Schenker and seconded by Mr. Dobosh, it was
VOTED: To approve, sign, and submit the letter to the DEP, by a roll call vote: Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Annual Town Disbursement:

Mr. Hine reviewed the payment of the annual disbursement that SHELD pays the Town for administrative services the Town departments provide to SHELD. The amount had been \$180,000 per year for many years, then increased to \$200,000. In consideration of increases in costs and inflation, management is suggesting an increase to \$220,000 for this year.

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh and seconded by Mr. Schenker, it was
VOTED: To approve increasing the annual town disbursement payment to the Town of South Hadley to \$220,000, by a roll call vote: Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Old Business:

After three winter months of virtual meetings, the Board will go back to hybrid meetings at the library starting in April.

Mr. Dobosh asked if anyone attended the MLCA meetings? Mr. Hine had attended a couple. He stated sometimes the topics were interesting.

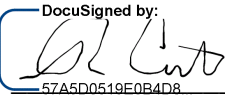
New Business:

Chairman Hine thanked Mr. Schenker for his service on the Board over the last 10 years. This was Kurt's last meeting, as he is not running for the board again. Mr. Fitzgerald said he enjoyed working with Kurt over the years. Mr. Schenker said everyone was doing a good job.

Adjourn:

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

The open session ended at 6:25 P.M.

DocuSigned by:

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Ronald Coutu, Light Board Clerk

Approved: April 24, 2025

EXHIBIT A

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

1. Draft Open Session Minutes February 27, 2025
2. Draft Executive Session Minutes February 27, 2025
3. Clean Heat Standard draft letter