

**SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EXECUTIVE SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING
MARCH 28, 2024, AT 5:00 P.M.**

Present for Board: Chair John Hine, Vice Chair Denise Presley, Paul Dobosh, Ron Couto, Kurt Schenker (arrived 5:10)

Additional Attendees: Katherine Shove-Harrington, SHELD Legal Counsel, Sean Fitzgerald, SHELD General Manager, Michael Conchieri, SHELD Financial Manager, Administrative Services Specialist Kim Mendoza

Additionally, at 5:33PM: Kelly Frazier, SHELD Customer Service & Marketing Manager and Lee Masters, SHELD Telecom Network Supervisor

The virtual meeting open session was called to order by Chair John Hine at 5:00 P.M. following an open session motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L.c. 164, § 47D for the purposes of discussing trade secrets, confidential, competitively sensitive, or other propriety information pertaining to fiber projects 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, and to reconvene in open session at approximately 6:00 PM (see open session minutes for vote).

Mr. Hine stated the Board had received a list of previously held executive session minutes to be released with redactions or to continue to be held, per legal counsel. Mr. Couto had questions on suggested redactions of the minutes of three different dates and asked for clarification as to why these statements should be redacted. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the recommended redactions were competitively sensitive and after a discussion with other board members, and Attorney Shove-Harrington on each of the three sets of minutes, it was decided not to change any of the suggested redactions.

There was a discussion about how much information to write in the minutes if the information would then need to be redacted. Attorney Shove-Harrington said that the minutes should not be verbatim but must contain enough information so that someone not attending the meeting would have a sense of what was discussed. The minutes are then released in their entirety or piecemeal once the information is no longer sensitive.

Mr. Hine stated that since there were no changes to the suggested redactions he asked for a motion.

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh and seconded by Mr. Couto, it was
VOTED: To authorize the Board to release the executive session meeting minutes listed on the spreadsheet 2022-2023 Executive Session Minutes with Redactions Highlighted and to not release other executive session meeting minutes, or portions of said meeting minutes, referenced therein and further that said disclosure be announced during open session in accordance with

MGL chapter 30A, sec 22, and all other applicable provisions, by a roll call vote: Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Katherine Shove-Harrington left the meeting at 5:33PM. Kelly Frazier and Lee Masters joined the meeting.

The second part of the meeting was a discussion on future MDU/Condo construction. Mr. Conchieri displayed a presentation on the Fiberspring Construction Project as of 12/31/2023.

He discussed the initial estimated costs in 2019 and construction costs as of 12/31/2023 with 2000 connected customers. It indicated that SHELD under budget after also including the bridge and river crossings to Holyoke for redundancy. In 2023 the project became cash flow positive.

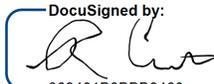
Mr. Conchieri discussed the cost of completing all the MDU/Condos. A decision needs to be made on how to fund the balance of the project which consists of 30 MDU/Condos totaling 1500 customers. Some are privately owned, some publicly owned, and many are rentals. They have many types of ownership/governing organizations. The challenge is that each one is different, some may be very profitable, and others may not. Cost sharing levels will be different for each project. The cost for connection is much more expensive for these complexes, per unit, compared to regular public residential connections.

The Alvord Place pilot was discussed. They had very high interest prior to construction. They put in the pathway, absorbing some of the construction cost, but they had only a small percentage of residents apply for service once completed. Therefore, the payback for SHELD construction costs will take considerably longer than planned.

After discussion, it was decided to move forward, on a case-by-case basis, after assessing construction costs and interest, and presenting each project to the SHELD Board for approval. Mr. Hine said he would make a statement in open session that each MDU would be addressed individually by management and the SHELD Board.

On a motion by Mr. Schenker, seconded by Mr. Coutu, it was
VOTED: To adjourn the executive session and return to the open session, by a roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Ms. Presley-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Schenker-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

The Executive Session ended at 6:02 PM.

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Ron Coutu, Light Board Clerk

Approved: April 25, 2024