## SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EXECUTIVE SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING JUNE 27, 2024, AT 5:00 P.M.

Present for Board: Chair John Hine, Vice Chair Paul Dobosh, Ron Coutu, Tom Terry Kurt Schenker (arrived 5:01)

Present for SHELD: Sean Fitzgerald, General Manager, Michael Conchieri, Financial Manager, Director of Operations Adam St. Martin, Administrative Services Specialist Kim Mendoza, Customer Service & Marketing Manager Kelly Frazier, Telecom Manager Bobby Liswell

The open session of the virtual meeting was called to order by Chair John Hine at 5:00 P.M. followed by a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss fiber projects and property and to return to open session at approximately 6:00 PM (see open session minutes for vote).

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the first item to discuss was Board approval for fiber construction at the multi dwelling unit (MDU) Rivercrest Condominiums, off Ferry Street. It has 29 units with 13 applicants already signed up for service. The board of Rivercrest has agreed to pay towards the pathway construction. Mr. Conchieri displayed a proforma and stated that if we completed the infrastructure needed to connect only the 13 current applicants, it would cost less than if we did the complete buildout. This will reduce our financial risk if no other customers apply for fiber service.

Mr. Hine asked if adding more customers later would be more expensive if we only construct for the 13 customers now. Mr. Fitzgerald said it would be more efficient to complete the buildout up front, but we don't know if more customers will apply for the service. Mr. Liswell said we would install the main line, the cable, and the MSTs up front, which will allow us to easily add more drops later, if more customers apply.

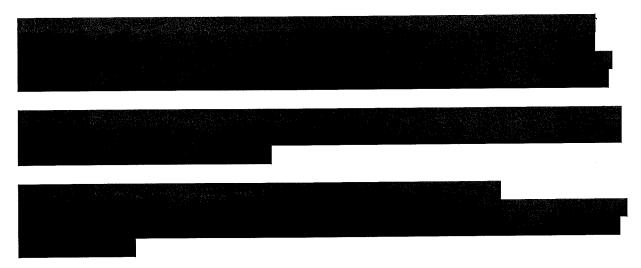
Mr. Fitzgerald stated that management recommended proceeding with this MDU construction. After discussing specifics of the construction project, it was decided to vote on and approve construction in open session.

The next topic was an update on the Town of Longmeadow fiber project. Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed the status of this project. The Longmeadow Municipal Task Force inquired last year if SHELD would be interested in providing Project Management and ISP services for their Town fiber project. SHELD management recommended that we engage with Longmeadow in February and the SHELD Board, in executive session in February 2024, approved that management proceed with Longmeadow. The Longmeadow Task Force toured our facilities and took a unanimous vote (10-0) to move forward with SHELD/Fiberspring for their ISP project management needs including engineering and design plan after we provided them with a projected cost. In April 2024, Longmeadow voted in favor of creating their own MLP. We have since provided them with a proforma for the total construction cost and on August 12<sup>th</sup> the Task

Force will likely recommend SHELD for the project at their Selectboard meeting. They will likely vote to enter into an IGA with SHELD and the information will be made public. The final steps are a second vote in October to become an MLP and authorization to use Free Cash for engineering and design with SHELD.

Board members asked if the current SHELD staff could handle the extra work, and they had concerns about ratepayer questions regarding whether it would affect the remainder of our Town MDUs being built. Mr. Fitzgerald said the staff can handle the project and MDU construction is moving forward now. The Longmeadow project will not affect our current customers.

Bobby Liswell and Kelly Frazier left the meeting at 5:23PM.



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

The Executive Session ended at 5:31 PM.

Ron Coutu, Light Board Clerk

Approved: July 25, 2024

Ronald Coutu, Light Board Clerk

Approved to be Released with Redactions: February 27, 2025