



**SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' HYBRID MEETING
TRUSTEES ROOM AT THE LIBRARY
SEPTEMBER 25, 2025, AT 5:00 P.M.**

Present for the Board: Chair John Hine, Vice Chair Paul Dobosh, Ron Coutu, Darren Hamilton, Tom Terry joined remotely

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

The hybrid meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chair John Hine who stated the Board would move to Executive Session for purposes 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 to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property and return to open session at approximately 6:00PM.

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, it was 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. Hamilton-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

The Board returned to open session at 6:09 PM.

Minutes Approval:

8/28/2025 Open Session:

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, it was VOTED: To approve the open session minutes of August 28, 2025, by roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Hamilton-aye, Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

9/10/2025 Special Meeting:

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, it was VOTED: To approve the special meeting minutes of September 10, 2025, by roll call vote: Mr. Hamilton-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye. Mr. Terry abstained as he was not at that meeting.

Public Comment:

Mr. John Howard stated he had sent the Board an article on smaller residential home batteries that could be used as backup by homeowners to plug in necessary equipment when the power goes out or the demand is high. He hadn't heard anything lately about the status on SHELD's larger battery backup system plan. He was wondering if people could have their own battery and isolate it from the grid to use for their own power source. Mr. Fitzgerald said they would have to talk to MMWEC and look into program costs and incentives.

Manager's Report:

Outages: The September 6th storm brought considerable wind and rain damage causing outages. 1,700 customers were out and were restored within 2.5 hours, 700 restored within 6.5 hours leaving 20 customers on Cove Island Road and Upper River Road without power for 18 to 23 hours. SHELd's crews were highly responsive and highly efficient repairing a lot of damage.

Fiberspring Update: Telecom call stats for the month of August were displayed for South Hadley, Shutesbury, and Leverett showing the volume of calls, the types of calls received, the number of escalations, and the number of truck rolls. We are still at 52% take rate. Some fiber customers were also affected during the power outages. If they have no power, they have no internet. Most connections returned once power was restored. A few required rebooting routers or truck rolls.

Longmeadow Update: Longmeadow will be postponing their fiber financing vote until June 2026.

June 2025 Financials:

Mr. Conchieri referenced PowerPoint slides as he gave a brief overview of the financials for the month ending June 30, 2025.

Kilowatt hour sales of 54,963,000 for 2025 were up by 3.57% from 2024 or 1,894,000 kilowatt hours. Year-to-date operating revenues of \$9,378,000 were up from 2024 by 19% or about \$1,517,000, consisting of an increase of \$280,000 in volume and an increase of \$1,237,000 in selling price.

The 2025-kilowatt hour purchases of 56,099,000 were up by 2.10% from 2024, or 1,556,000. The 2025 cost of power sold of \$5,878,000 was up by about 16.99% from 2024, or \$854,000, consisting of an increase of \$106,000 in kilowatt hour purchase volume, and an increase of \$748,000 in purchase price.

The increase in revenue was more than the cost of power; therefore, the net revenue of \$5,665,000 was up from 2024 by \$800,000. The actual net revenue was up from the budgeted amount by \$407,000.

All other 2025 operating expenses of \$4,800,000 on a combined basis were down from 2024 by about \$240,000 and up from the budgeted amount by \$96,000.

June 2025 ended with a net YTD gain of about \$1,100,000, compared to the 2024 loss of \$13,000 and was more than the budgeted amount of a \$873,000 gain.

New Building:

Mr. Hine asked board members for their thoughts on the September 10th public forum. Approximately 25 attended. Several people spoke against the new building while a couple spoke in support of SHELd.

Mr. Coutu asked whether we will be accessing the property from Willimansett St or Old Lyman Road. Residents are against us using the Old Lyman Road entrance. Mr. Fitzgerald said that the

access covenant is still being worked out with the covenant owner. They want us to use Old Lyman Road, but Mr. Fitzgerald said the planning board will be weighing in on this decision.

Town Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

Town Administrator Lisa Wong is concerned about ratepayers being affected by increases in taxes, rates, and fees from the Town, SHELD, and the Fire and Water Districts, and wants to have group meetings between all entities to have discussions on any potential future increases. She sent an MOU asking for SHELD's participation in the group meetings. Management supports the intent of this MOU and agrees SHELD should sign it. After a discussion on clarification of some of the language in the MOU, a motion made by Mr. Dobosh, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, was

VOTED: That the Board express support for the MOU, by roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Hamilton-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Old Business:

Mr. Coutu asked that since we released the Big Y location to the public, we should review previously held and/or redacted minutes and look at releasing them. Mr. Fitzgerald said he would review the minutes.

New Business:

Mr. Fitzgerald proposed going to fully remote Board meetings starting in October. The Board agreed. Mr. Dobosh wanted to discuss the meeting dates for the remainder of 2025. The October meeting is scheduled for October 23 and will be remote. We skip November because it falls on Thanksgiving. Another Board schedules its meetings the first Thursday of each month, so in December the remote meeting will be Thursday December 11.

Adjourn:

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh seconded by Mr. Hamilton, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting, by roll call vote: Mr. Terry-aye, Mr. Hamilton-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye Mr. Hine-aye.

The open session ended at 6:51 P.M.

Signed by:

Darren Hamilton

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Darren Hamilton, Light Board Clerk

Approved: October 23, 2025

EXHIBIT A

List of Documents reviewed on September 25, 2025, at the Municipal Light Board Meeting

1. Draft Open Session Minutes August 28, 2025
2. Draft Special Meeting Minutes September 10, 2025
3. August 2025 Telecom Call Stats
4. Financial Statements June 30, 2025, and 2024
5. Town MOU