

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SHELD, 85 MAIN STREET, SOUTH HADLEY, MA
MARCH 5, 2018 at 1:00 PM

Present for the Board: Chair Gregory Dubreuil, Vice Chair Vernon Blodgett, Anne Awad, John Hine, Kurt Schenker

Present for staff: General Manager Sean Fitzgerald, Michael Conchieri, Paul Byrne, Ed Morrin, Mark Gilmore, Kim Mendoza, Jonathan Szymonik, Kelly Frazier, Greg St. Onge

Guests: Steve VanderMeer, Hometown Connections

The meeting was called to order by Gregory Dubreuil, Chair.

Mr. VanderMeer introduced himself as the Strategic Planning facilitator from Hometown Connections. He shared some of his background and Hometown Connections' history. He then addressed some of the issues currently impacting Public Power such as increasing regulation, power supply mix, infrastructure, new technologies, and utility workforce issues. He elaborated on each topic and the possible effects each might have on SHELD in the future.

Mr. VanderMeer proceeded by speaking to the value of having a Strategic Plan and then outlined the Strategic Planning process. A Strategic Plan highlights the values, principles, and concepts of an organization. It helps an organization evaluate itself by looking at its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. That allows the organization to write a plan for the future that will ensure its success. He explained that the Board plays a critical role in the direction in which the utility moves. There will be two teams working on the Strategic Plan. The Implementation Team consisting of SHELD department Managers, a staff member from each department, and the General Manager along with the Advisory Team who consists of the five Board members and the General Manager. The Advisory Board sets the priorities and the Implementation Team develops and prioritizes the strategies based on the Board's direction. It then builds goals and actions into the equation and sends it back to the Board for their approval.

Mr. VanderMeer reviewed the benefits of Strategic Planning and what it means to be a Public Power organization. He talked about the phases that make up the process that are needed to build a plan. He asked the Board a series of questions about their concerns and ideas for the future of SHELD. Through group discussion on topics such as community, customers, workforce and finance, among others, he helped the Board develop a list of key areas of focus. He then went through similar questioning asking the Board about their vision for the future of SHELD.

Mr. VanderMeer explained that he would be returning a couple of times over the next several months and the teams would again meet, separately and together, and continue to fine tune the strategic plan.

Adjourn:

On a motion by Mr. Schenker and seconded by Mr. Hine, it was unanimously
VOTED: to adjourn.

The Open Session ended at 5:05 PM.


Clerk

Approved: April 26, 2018