

Hingham Municipal Light Plant Regular Meeting held on May 30, 2012

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant (HMLP) was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, May 30, 2012 at the Hingham Municipal Light Plant offices at 350 Lincoln Street, Hingham, Massachusetts.

Present: Walter A. Foskett , Chairman, John P. Ryan, Vice-Chairman, John A. Stoddard Jr., Secretary, Board Members. Also present were: Paul Heanue, GM, James Goulet, Auditor, Gus Bregnard, Attendee, Steve Gerardi, Attendee, Jack Burlingame, Customer and Karen Morgan, recording secretary.

On a motion duly made and seconded it was voted that Walter Foskett become Chairman, Jack Ryan as Vice- Chairman and John Stoddard as Secretary of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant.

Regular Meeting:

The GM begins the meeting by addressing Mr. Burlingame's appeal of meter charges and explaining what is in the package he distributed to the Board. Mr. Burlingame was given a set of the documents.

The first page of the copies of the bills shows that A9 rate is the regular residential rate and E9 is the hot water. On the bill dated January 30, 2001, there was an opening read of 0 and the closing read was 843. That "N" next to it, means normal read, not an estimated one. So the January 30, 2001 bill shows 843kw was charged to the hot water meter. There was steady use from January 2001 until April 2002 and then the meter stopped showing consumption from 2002 to 2011. There was a monthly charge of \$6.40 for that meter. In January 2008 HMLP sent a letter to all the customers who had hot water meters that had "0" consumption. Mr. Burlingame should have received one but he did not recall receiving it. He did respond to a July 2011 letter sent by HMLP. As a result of the second letter, he petitioned the Board to reimburse him approximately \$800 charged to the hot water meter.

There were a series of questions between Board members and Mr. Burlingame about his wiring and what appliances might have been connected to the meter in question. Mr. Burlingame contended there was never electric hot water in the house since he's owned it. The GM said that this whole thing is about a meter charge and there's a charge if there is a meter on a house, whether residential or hot water. There's a charge on the meter being there. Burlingame felt he shouldn't have to pay the meter charge at this house. When he moved into his house, there was no electric hot water. Mr. Ryan said that there was a charge every month for 10 years. Burlingame said it was inexplicable and not labeled and he had no indication what the charges are. The GM said the notation on the bill, E9, is the hot water rate. On the other side of the bill there is an explanation of the abbreviations for each rate and an explanation of the note. Burlingame said that the explanation on the back does not use the words "electric" or "hot water." Burlingame said that the electric hot water heater was removed by the prior owner and he didn't

notify anyone and Burlingame has been continuously charged for it. Every month there is a household usage charge and a meter that has no activity against it. The GM replied that the \$6.40 a month is for the meter being at the house. If someone asks HMLP to install a meter, until someone says they don't need the meter the meter remains. How would HMLP know otherwise? Burlingame is going to take the next step and file an appeal with the DPU.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to deny the appeal of Mr. Burlingame.

Report by auditors and discuss financials

Auditor Jim Goulet introduces himself to the Board Members. He explained each page of the audit report's notations.

A general discussion ensues during and after which questions are asked.

Approve Minutes:

The next order of business was to approve the minutes from the April 24th, 2012 HMLP Board meeting. On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to approve the submitted minutes.

GM Report – status of North Street ug, SCADA, new circuit, new bucket

- The GM spoke of the North Street undergrounding. The Town was not able to secure all the easements needed for the conduit which has been installed so the Town asked us for various options to tie it together. HMLP gave them four and the Town settled on one that requires very little digging but requires securing an easement from the owner of the proposed German restaurant. There were three customers who still needed to do electrical work to get them ready to go underground. One was Tosca which is now complete leaving just two.
- The SCADA bids are in. We will be reviewing them and getting starting with that. Heanue will send the Board a summary of what they are.
- The new circuit 9 should be running in a week or so. The only remaining work is installing a final switch.
- Bids for the new bucket truck went out this week and it was advertised in the newspapers as required.
- During one phase of the inductive interference study for the MBTA easement it was discovered that three poles that didn't have proper grounds. The grounds were installed today. HMLP's study recommended no monitoring devices have to be installed but the MBTA that decides if that's the case. HMLP is waiting to hear back from the MBTA.
- Double pole database: there is software that allows pole owners to track how many double poles there are in a town, how many poles each utility has to work on, etc. Verizon has blamed HMLP for the double poles. The Town Administrator was shown how it works and he is thrilled to have a way to track progress, or lack of, by Verizon and Comcast. The Town Administrator is not of the opinion the problem is with HMLP.
- Bucket rescue training will be tomorrow and HMLP has invited the DPW's tree crews and the Fire Department to attend.

Executive Session:

On a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously voted to move into Executive Session.

On a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously voted to move out of Executive Session and to return to the regular meeting.

On a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9pm.

Executive Session

The following revisions to the GM contract were discussed and approved by the Board:

- Start date: It was agreed the start date would be May 31st 2012.
- Extension date: If the initial agreement is to be extended the parties will do so in writing 90 days prior to the end of the initial term.
- Commencement date: A discussion took place over what the agreement's commencement date would be. The date selected was June 1, 2012 and a \$10,000 lump sum payment would be made to the GM upon the agreement's commencement date.
- Performance plan: The size of the contribution will be based on the GM's execution of The Plan.
- Sick days: Injury was added to the reasons GM could collect sick pay.
- Automobile: The GM must be in the vehicle if it is to be used for non-business purposes.
- Right to a public hearing: The GM, if he desires, has the right to a public hearing if there is meeting at which his dismissal will be discussed.
- Termination of agreement without cause: If the GM is dismissed without cause an agreement was reached regarding the size of his lump sum payment and how long he would have medical and dental insurance coverage paid for by HMLP.
- Performance obligations: The items that the GM needs to provide the HMLP Board were listed.

On a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously voted to end the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting.

