

## **Minutes:**

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting

May 17, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at Town of Stowe Electric Conference Room

### **Present:**

BOARD MEMBERS: Richard ("Dick") Marron, Chairman; Larry Lackey, Vice-Chairman; Denise Gutstein, Commissioner

STAFF: Ellen Burt, General Manager; Kevin Weishaar, Controller; Matthew Rutherford, Manager of Regulatory Compliance; James Brewster, Systems Administrator; David Kresock, Director of Operations; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

Guest: Anne Lackey, Stowe High School student  
Ed French, SED attorney

Dick called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m.

### **Approval of the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of April 26, 2017 were approved.

### **Re-Appointment of Commissioner by the Selectboard; Appointment of Clerk of the Board**

Larry Lackey has been re-appointed as Commissioner by the Selectboard. Larry Lackey made a motion to appoint Lily Burgess as the Clerk of the Board, Denise seconded and the motion was approved.

### **IT Report**

SmartWorks/MeterSense – UPN Web Presentment: When SED moved and migrated to the UPN billing platform, SED discontinued the VPN connection that transferred the meter data to MeterSense and the link was removed from the Stowe Electric website. Customers can continue to access historical data directly via the web address for the time being. The front office has the web address to supply to customers as needed. Moving forward, customers will use the SEDC Portal for viewing usage and paying bills.

AMI: The server was successfully migrated to a Williston data center and updated to the latest version of the software. The Verizon Wireless VPN connection between GateKeeper and Williston has been configured. This server move will save SED considerable amounts.

SEDC: Jamie is continuing to focus on ensuring that the meter reads coming from the Elster/Honeywell system import correctly to the SEDC MDM system. He is working with the tech team at SEDC to automate this process. Jamie is continuing to work with SEDC to recreate the reports that send daily Nebraska Valley Solar Farm production to Energy New England (ENE). Currently, Jamie is producing these reports manually on a daily basis and e-mails them to ENE. Jamie is furthermore working with SEDC to recreate the monthly usage reports to send to Efficiency Vermont and furthermore to understand options and pricing for Interval Data reports to be sent to Efficiency Vermont.

Other: The new phone system will be installed next week. Phone system security was discussed in detail. The surveillance system at the Solar Farm with 3 cameras will be installed soon to ensure security through live visibility and recording. SED is considering adding a live feed onto its website for customers to view the Solar Farm.

## **Regulatory Update**

Cady Hill Solar Project: Last month, the Applicant filed a motion to reconsider the Public Service Board's (PSB) dismissal of the application on procedural grounds. The Town and intervening neighbors both filed comments in opposition to the Applicant's motion. SED filed its own comments, as well as adopted and endorsed the other comments filed. Before the PSB could weigh in on the motion, the Applicant filed an appeal of the dismissal to the Vermont Supreme Court on May 4<sup>th</sup>, and on May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Applicant filed a motion for remand (or essentially withdrawing their appeal again).

The PSB opened an investigation in response to the Applicant filing for dispute resolution centering around which engineering study should be performed and the reasonableness of the cost estimate provided by SED, with a pre-hearing conference scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>. SED will file a response, which may include a motion to stay the proceeding in light of the PSB order from February dismissing the project.

VEIC Data Transfer Cost: All the parties met again earlier this month to discuss cost recovery. Each of the distribution utilities (DU) are to provide an estimate for the cost of updating their own systems to implement the transfer. VEIC is to provide information of utilization and incorporation of the requested data. All parties are to report back to the group. The last time the DU provided such cost information was in 2014. SED is talking with SEDC to provide cost estimates. The parties filed to extend the deadline for a proposed resolution until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Net Metering Rule: Legislative Objection and H.411: The Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules ("LCAR") disputed the PSB's new Net Metering Rule as written, as it changes the rates credited to customers and also how they can apply those credits to their bills after 10 years of operation. H. 411, as passed by both the House and Senate on May 4<sup>th</sup>, now includes a provision that explicitly states that the PSB does have the authority to adjust the rules for the pre-existing net metering systems after 10 years of operation, in effect treating them in the same manner as new systems whose applications were filed on or after January 1, 2017. After the 10 year period, affected systems will receive the blended residential rate for excess generation instead of the \$0.19 or \$0.20 per kilowatt hour and will be unable to apply any credits to non-bypassable charges such as the customer charge or the energy efficiency charge.

2017 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP"): SED has been making steady progress on the development of the IRP. ENE and SED are continuing to coordinate in order to complete their respective sections. SED anticipates to have a final product to file this June. SED learned from the firm hired to perform its demand forecasting that SED is the fastest growing Vermont utility.

### **Operations Report**

The installation of the new circuit 5 voltage regulator is complete and SED was able to return the system to normal yesterday. The new switch the line crew installed over the winter has made tying circuits 5 and 6 together a breeze. SED can now easily de-energize half of the substation bus and the linemen can work safely on swapping the voltage regulators out.

### **Other Business**

Moscow Mills property: Ellen is working on getting three bids for the demolition as well as three proposals for the new office/operations facility construction. She is meeting with Breadloaf Construction today. SD Ireland has already submitted a proposal. Ellen has not heard back from Peter Riley yet. Contacting Riverwatch Construction was discussed. The general timeline of the construction project was discussed

### **Legal Matter (Executive Session)**

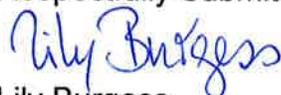
The Board moved to go into Executive Session at 8:54 a.m. to discuss a legal matter and invited Ellen Burt and Kevin Weishaar to stay. Ed French joined the meeting at 8:54 for the Executive Session. The Board made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:40 a.m. and the motion carried.

Dick Marron made a motion to approve the purchase of VPPSA's 43.7% share in the Highgate Converter, with the option to purchase the remaining 43.7% within the next two years and to furthermore authorize the General Manager to enter into the necessary agreements and sign the related authorizations and documents, Larry seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lily Burgess  
Clerk of the Board