

Minutes:

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting
August 25, 2016 at 7:30 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; David Kresock, Director of Operations; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

Dick called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

Approval of the July 21st, 2016 Meeting Minutes

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of July 21, 2016 were approved.

IT Report

The IT Report was part of the Commissioners' Meeting Packet but was not discussed in further detail.

Regulatory Update (incl. Solar Project and VLITE Project)

Net Metering Update:

- Moscow Road Project - 500kW: SED is waiting to receive the deposit for the cost of the System Impact Study in order for SED's engineer to perform the study. This study is needed before the developer can file for the Certificate of Public Good.
- Trapp's Brewery - 143kW: SED's engineer completed the assessment of the project and determined that there are no concerns from a system stability & reliability perspective.
- SED has hit 3.1% of its 15% cap of permitted projects. More than 40% of SED's Net Metering capacity has come in 2016.

Nebraska Valley Solar Update: The Solar Project was officially commissioned on August 8th and has been producing power every day since. The last remaining step to complete the Project is for FairPoint to install a DSL line to the site.

VLITE Project Update: Alchemist agreed to host the CD fast EV charger. An agreement has been provided for them to sign and SED is currently working to finalize the installation plan.

Financial Update

SED initially borrowed \$3.1M, however, the Solar Project came in about \$157,000 under budget and SED will be returning these excess funds to CREBs. The landscaping and berm at the Solar Site were discussed.

Preliminary numbers for the June 30th audit, scheduled for September 27th, were discussed. SED is currently showing a positive bottom line of \$50,000, mostly as a result of the Snowmaking interruptible load-following contract. Residential Revenue is down, mostly due to the elimination of the Residential Demand Rate 06. Commercial Revenue is up by about \$70,000. Power Costs, driven by consumption, are about \$309,000 below budget, however, transmission costs are up by about \$100,000.

Operations Report

The Operations Report was part of the Commissioners' Meeting Packet but was not discussed in further detail.

Potential Real Estate Transaction (Expected Executive Session)

The Board moved to go into Executive Session at 8:25 a.m. to discuss a potential Real Estate matter and invited Ellen Burt and Kevin Weishaar to stay. The Board made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:16 a.m. and the motion carried.

The Board authorized the General Manager, Ellen Burt, to pursue a real estate transaction.

Other Business

New Disconnection Procedure: The reaction to the new procedure has been positive in general, with only three exceptions. Many customers decided to pay the past due as well as the current amount due. To ensure that customers affected are aware of the procedural change, SED will be including an explanatory letter on bright green paper with the disconnection notices being mailed for the next couple months. SED has also made a special effort to contact customers on the disconnect list for the first time.

Kirchner Property: SED sold the Kirchner property on August 9th for the total purchase price of \$325,000 less commission.

Combined Ribbon-Cutting / Press Event: SED, Encore and Drive Electric Vermont are in the process of organizing a combined ribbon cutting event in October to celebrate the new Waterhouse Solar Farm in Hyde Park, the new Nebraska Valley Solar Farm in Stowe, and the unveiling of the 8 new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the fast-charging EV station will be held at the Alchemist Brewery. The Governor will be present and speaking, providing a few remarks regarding these innovative solar photovoltaic (PV) projects, outlining the investment SED has made in their community and the connection to tourism activity.

SED will then host a reception with photo and video presentations of each project at a central location in Stowe. Kate from Stowe Kitchen & Bath has offered her store as a locality for the reception, but Ellen Burt would welcome suggestions from the Board as well. SED will extend invitations to the press as well as a number of other local, state and federal partners.

VEDA Annual Report: Ellen Burt was contacted by VEDA last week informing her that they would like to feature the Nebraska Valley Solar Farm as well as the Waterhouse Solar Farm in their annual report this year. VEDA would write a couple paragraphs describing the project and its benefits to Stowe and would send a photographer to Stowe and Hyde Park on September 1st to take pictures to include in their annual report. Ellen Burt responded that SED would be honored if VEDA would feature the Solar Farms in their annual report and invited them to the Ribbon-Cutting event in October.

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for Thursday September 22nd at 7:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lily Burgess
Clerk of the Board