

## **Minutes:**

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting  
September 19, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at Town of Stowe Electric Conference Room

### **Present:**

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

STAFF: Patricia ("Trish") Waugh, Interim Manager; David Kresock, Director of Operations; Matt Rutherford, Manager of Regulatory Compliance; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

Dick called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

### **Approval of the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes**

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 were approved.

### **Approval of the August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 were approved.

### **Regulatory Update**

Investigation of Net-Metering Program: The Public Utility Commission (PUC) opened an investigation into Vermont's net-metering program. One of the primary concerns raised by the parties was whether the program is achieving the State's various statutory goals. The PUC has therefore asked for substantive information from the utilities and comments from other parties in anticipation of a workshop. The wide-reaching concerns are namely: Is the program helping to achieve the energy goals, green-house gas reduction goals; Is it balancing the cost & benefits; Is it limiting the cost shift between customers who participate and customers who don't, all while allowing anybody that would like to participate to participate in the program and balancing the rate of development with the impact that it may have on the electric rates and also allow customer to retain the RECs if they so wish. Some of these goals can be in conflict of each other at times

Utilities are requested to quantify the cost shift that they see between customers, quantify the effect on retail rates, and if there is an effect on the retail rates, how does the utility suggest that the compensation is to be changed to lessen the effect. Utilities were furthermore requested to state the amount of new net-metering capacity the utility will need to meet Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard (RES) in total and on an average per year (even though this would be the most expensive way to meet the RES). Parties are requested to quantify or at least consider the potential benefits of net-metering (such as transmission,

capacity, and other power market costs) and to provide thoughts on the designation of "preferred sites".

The first round of comments is due on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Heidi asked that the Commissioners get to see the comments to be submitted as well.

The shift from fossil fuel heating to cold climate Heat Pumps (ccHP) and the timing of this electric usage was discussed in detail. The use of ccHPs for cooling and its impact on electric rates was mentioned. Larry inquired about the process of getting PUC approval for incentives and rebates for electric vehicles (EV) and ccHPs as currently offered by electric utilities. Matt explained that if a utility wants to offer something that somehow deviates from their annual plan, then the utility needs to file an amendment, which then has a 30 days comment period for the Public Service Department (PSD) to raise issues and concerns. Electric buses for Burlington, the electric shuttle in Montpelier and potentially the addition of an electric bus for Stowe were discussed. Ebikes and pedal-assist ebikes were mentioned. Electric and hybrid bucket trucks, their specific uses and current challenges were discussed.

## **Operations Report**

SED crews have been working extensively on the downtown project. Installation of the new crossarms and conductor attachments were completed on the new poles at the base of the Mountain Road, Maple Street and School Street. SED also replaced the pole at the corner of School and Pond which will allow the crew to remove the push brace pole after the line relocation is completed. The line crew has finished measuring the conductor pull lengths that need to be ordered. SED completed the exploratory digging at the end of Park Street and located the ends of the existing duct back crossing under Park Place and determined that the conduits ducts go the entire way and will only need to be completed at the new riser pole on the corner of Park when the crew installs it.

David reported that there are signs that Consolidated Communications is removing double poles more actively.

During an early morning outage on September 12<sup>th</sup>, the last old underground conductor on the transmission line on Shaw Hill was taken out of service during an early morning outage on September 12<sup>th</sup> and replaced with the recently installed second new replacement conductor. The line crew completed the outage earlier than anticipated, and was able to re-energize the Mountain line about an hour sooner. Royal Electric will pull out this final conductor next week and pull in the third and last new conductor. One last outage is necessary to re-organize the new conductors on the risers on each end and place the spare back to its normal position.

SED submitted the two final options that will work best for the new underground tie point for Circuits 6 & 7 at Bingham Lane to Lodge Substation. SED is waiting for approvals from the landowners to proceed. Larry raised a concern about the aesthetics of future work, and David confirmed that he was informed that no poles can be set at that location.

## **Other Business**

There was no financial update presented, as Rob spent the last few weeks preparing for the arrival of the auditors on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Rob did not attend this Board meeting due to a previously arranged vacation. Ellen was in attendance on the final day of KBS's audit of SED's June 30<sup>th</sup> financial statements to speak directly with the auditors. A list of items to be addressed was specified and KBS will be returning on October 4<sup>th</sup> to finish.

Trish reported that Ellen will be returning to her position as General Manager on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. At her doctor's recommendation, she will still be working a reduced schedule until she is re-evaluated in October.

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was subsequently moved to Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lily Burgess  
Clerk of the Board