

**Minutes:**

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting

September 22, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at Town of Stowe Electric Conference Room

**Present:**

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

STAFF: Ellen Burt, General Manager; Brent Lilley, Director of Operations; Sarah Juzek, Controller; Mike Lazorchak, Manager of Regulatory Compliance; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

Dick called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**Approval of the August 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of August 18<sup>th</sup> were approved.

**Financial Report**

Preliminary July 2021 Financial Results: SED ended July with \$876,710 in total net income, which is \$655,587 above the 2021 straight-line YTD budget. This favorable result is caused from the budget being based on the prior year results from COVID-19 and the load increase from the growing population moving to Stowe. Operating Revenue overall is up 4% over budget. Operating Expenses overall were 5% under budget.

June 2021 Audit: The in-person audit fieldwork was completed last week. SED is expecting about \$165K in adjustments from the auditors dating back to the beginning of the year.

Budget for 2022: The 2022 budget will be spread seasonally to better match with actual financial activity month-to-month. The debt service schedule for a \$3.6 million loan to upgrade the Wilkins Substation was discussed.

**Operations Report**

July has again been very busy for Operations. SED received a total of 16 new service orders in August and energized 9 new services. YTD, service orders are up 66% compared to 2020 and 2019. SED completed the tie point at the Lodge Substation. Crews are now removing danger trees, as well as replacing broken and condemned poles.

SED initiated 55 new work orders and completed 60 work orders during the month of August. SED also received 69 DigSafes (vs 65 in 2020), for a total of 440 so far this year (vs 378 YTD in 2020).

## Regulatory Report

SED staff continues to work with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) on the Net-Metering and program administration, attending workshops and filing comments.

Staff continues to focus on the Moscow Mill stabilization project, with construction and repair to the West wall starting October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. SED and its consultants, SLR International, filed their Moscow Mills Classification Report with the PUC showing the dam is a low-hazard facility. Three groups of UVM Engineering students are working on various semester-long projects related to Moscow Mill.

SED to date has paid incentives for 1 used and 3 new all-electric vehicles, 5 new hybrid plug-in vehicles, 2 residential lawnmowers, 5 e-bikes, 7 water heater heat pumps, 8 ducted heat pumps, and 52 ductless heat pumps (cold climate heat pumps). SED has \$18,300 remaining in its Tier 3 energy transformation projects budget.

## Other Business

Restricted Capital Highgate Proceeds: At the last meeting, there was a discussion regarding using the remaining funds from the Highgate Asset sale to upgrade the Houston Substation. This capital work is necessary to allow new Net-Metering customer projects to come online on the currently constrained circuits 5 and 6. Dick would like to eventually replenish the Capital Upgrades restricted fund again, Larry agreed that it will be good to have such a reserve fund for Capital projects.

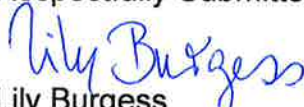
Heidi Scheuermann made a motion to approve using the restricted Capital Highgate Proceeds to perform the Capital Upgrades to the Houston Substation, Larry Lackey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Town of Stowe Selectboard: As discussed during last month's Board meeting, the Commissioners and SED staff will be attending the Selectboard on Monday evening, September 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the anticipated Bond vote in March 2022 and the ControlPoint presentation, as well as SED's rebate offers, climate change, and SED's rate history. Heidi suggested that the Commissioners and SED staff join Selectboard meetings quarterly, or at least twice per year to inform the public and Press about what is going on at the Electric Department. Dick Marron mentioned that SED has a Newsletter in the making that will be sent out quarterly. Dick suggested to bring the draft Newsletter to the Selectboard meeting.

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for October 20<sup>th</sup> and tentatively for November 17<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Lily Burgess  
Clerk of the Board