

## **Minutes:**

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting

June 23, 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 in training; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

GUEST: Willie Noyes, Stowe ratepayer, landlord as well as Chair of Selectboard.

Dick called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

### **Approval of Agenda and Order**

On motion made and seconded, the Agenda and the Orders were approved.

### **Approval of the May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of May 17, 2016 were approved.

### **Utility Billing - Landlord/Tenants Rights**

Willie Noyes approached Stowe Electric after a tenant moved out of one of his properties without paying his final bill. Both Dick and Denise spoke with Willie about his concerns on different occasions. Willie furthermore shared e-mails from other landlords with similar concerns. Willie elaborated on his concern that disconnect notices are not mailed in a timely fashion. Willie is furthermore frustrated with the privacy laws protecting the tenant's information since Willie feels that a landlord is held as a "co-signer" for an electric account and a balance due that is in someone else's name, yet the landlord is not privy to the information unless the tenant allows for it. Willie stated that in this particular case, his lease pre-dated SED's policy changes. Ellen explained the history of the landlord/tenant rights, the Public Service Department's role and how the rules and policies have changed over the past 20 years. The current Town Charter was discussed. Potentially requiring deposits for new customers and credit-risk customers, the current disconnect procedures as well as ways to change these disconnect procedures, the challenges of disconnecting and collection and the role of the Public Service Board as well as the allocation of payments toward past due Electric, Water & Sewer were discussed in great detail.

Willie Noyes exited the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

## IT Update (CustomerConnect, EV Charging Stations, AMI, SEDC, Misc.)

- MeterSense/CustomerConnect: Last month was a slower month with 10% fewer new sign-ups and repeat user visits.
- EV Charging Stations: May Revenue was \$37.40 for a total of 14 charging sessions. Jamie has received certification as an Installer for CT4000 and Express 200EV charging stations. This certification is required to complete the registration process for all new stations and to qualify for the equipment warranty.
- AMI: The meter mesh network performed well during the spring leaf-out, except the usual spots that have communication troubles. SED is waiting on a quote from Burlington Communications to install a repeater to strengthen the network.
- SEDC: Hosting A Co-Location Agreement has been signed with FirstLight in Williston, VT. A site visit was conducted on 6/14/2016 where the specific hardware cabinet was assigned and facility access was granted. SED will have 24/7 access to its hardware.

Project Specs/Hardware Server and networking hardware has been chosen and ordered. Additional backup and redundancy features have been included in the project which will improve SED's network resilience in the event of unforeseen events. Additional internet bandwidth will be added to SED's offices to provide a strong connection to data and application in the FirstLight facility.

Data Conversion Kevin and Jamie have been working with SEDC on understanding the current Edifice data structure and how it will be converted and imported into SEDC. All data transfers to SEDC are encrypted and sent via a secure ftp site.

MDM A large batch of Interval Data and Register Reads has been sent to SEDC for testing in their MDM.

## Regulatory & Legislative Update

Energy Development Improvement Act: S.230 was vetoed by the Governor after passing the Legislature. The Legislature then convened a special session and passed a bill, S.260, which addressed the Governor's concerns related to funding and sound standards for wind projects, which was subsequently signed into law (Act 174). The new bill serves largely the same primary purpose: to require the Public Service Board to give "substantial deference" to certified regional and municipal town plans. It also reauthorized the DPS to pay for the energy training for municipal and regional planning commissions and to pass on the costs to the utilities through their bill-back authority.

Application for 500kW Solar NetMetering Project: SED received an interconnection application for a 500kW net metering project to be built on Moscow Road. SED started the review process for the application, and requested additional site control documentation. The electrical engineer who performed the system impact study for SED's Nebraska Valley Solar Farm will review the application for the fast-track analysis. The electrical engineer mentioned that because this project is located on the same circuit as the Nebraska Valley Solar Farm, there will be system reliability concerns. If built, this new project would increase the current capacity of net metering projects to 4.78% of SED's 15% cap.

Amending Public Power Purchase Voting Requirements: Act 130 (H.577) changes the threshold at which municipal and coop contracts will require a public vote. They are now consistent with the standards that require a Certificate of Public Good. The bill was signed by the Governor and the new standards take effect on July 1, 2016. HQ is now considered a renewable energy source for Tier 1 requirements.

ISO-NE April 2016 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Interconnection Update: ISO collects energized PV information and data from utilities throughout the region as a part of its ongoing work to account for load reductions due to PV in its development of operational load forecasts.

### **Solar Project Update**

The solar panels are all installed. More than 50% of the wiring is completed. The upgrade of the distribution system, including the transformer installation, is completed. The site restoration, reseeding of the berm as well as the commissioning of the Solar Project by feeding into the grid is scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> to August 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Financial Update (Revenue Update)**

Due to a mild winter, usage and subsequent revenue from electrical services as well as power costs (both for the individual month of April as well as YTD) are down. Expenses are on target with the exception of tree trimming, since SED was able to start with tree trimming early. YTD bottom line is running favorable to budget and prior year.

### **Doug's Operations Report**

Doug's 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 9:07 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 9:30 a.m. and the motion carried. No actions or motions resulted from the Executive Session.

### **Other Business**

VLITE Update: SED will be installing the EV charging stations in July and August. The regular EV charging stations are in stock already, the fast-charging EV station will be delivered next week.

SED Union Contract:

Dick Marron made a motion to approve the current Union Contract, Larry Lackey seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lily Burgess  
Clerk of the Board