

Minutes:

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting
July 21, 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

STAFF: Ellen Burt, General Manager; Brent Lilley, Director of Operations; Patricia ("Trish") Waugh, Business & Customer Care Manager; Mike Lazorchak, Manager of Regulatory Compliance; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

Dick called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Approval of the June 30, 2021 Meeting Minutes

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of June 30th were approved.

Financial Report

SED ended April with \$407,213 in total net income, which is \$281K or 222% above the 2021 straight-line YTD budget. Operating Revenue overall was up 8% over budget. Large Commercial was up 30% over budget with an actual YOY increase of 6% over the same period in 2020. Residential was up 9% over budget. Operating expense, including transmission and distribution costs were relatively flat for April, and up about 1% over budget.

The most significant difference between budget and actual is due to a 2021 straight-line budget that was prepared with COVID-19 contingencies. While a straight-line budget is one of the easiest to implement, it does not create an accurate picture when dealing with seasonality such as SED's community experiences. In the future, SED will look to change its budget to a seasonal forecasting that will more accurately reflect budget variances during any given month.

The continued increased cost of purchase power was discussed, and Ellen stated that she gets monthly, and sometimes bi-weekly purchase power forecast updates from Energy New England (ENE). Power has seen an increase in recent months and ENE is forecasting a significant increase in the long run.

Operations Report

SED received a total of 11 new service orders in June and energized 4 new services. YTD, service orders are up 64% compared to 2020 and 2019. SED received 82 DigSafes in June, increasing the YTD number to 308. Outage statistics were discussed, and Brent alerted the Commissioners to the planned outage scheduled for Tuesday, July 27th from 4pm to 9pm, with a rain date of Wednesday, July 28th. SED notified the public via Stowe

Reporter ad, multiple postings on social media (Front Porch Forum, Facebook, Twitter, www.StoweElectric.com and on the Town's website as well), plus many phone calls to customers.

Regulatory Report

Mike stated that not much has changed at the Public Utility Commission (PUC) since last month.

SED staff continues to make progress on Net-Metering and program administration. This includes preparing SED's customers for changes in Net-Metering rates in July 2021, working with ControlPoint Technologies on managing and integrating distributed generation technology and inverter technology with SED's distribution system. Mike and Brent are also following Rule 5.100, 5.400, and 5.500 revisions, which are the PUC Net-Metering Rules.

Staff continues to focus on the Moscow Mill stabilization project and had successful meetings with the Town's zoning administrator, UVM Engineering, and SLR and Cole Engineering. SED has a preliminary design for the project that will continue to be refined over the next month and once completed SED will prepare an RFP for the construction work. No approval is needed for the West Wall stabilization. Unfortunately, SED anticipates COVID-19 impacts to the construction supply chains as well as staffing, both which might delay the project completion to Spring 2022. This however will not impact the stability of the Mill building.

Staff is also working with Stowe's Historic Society and Committee to gain further information on the historical aspects of the mill, and moreover continues to work with the Preservation Trust of Vermont for guidance and funding options on the stabilization of the Mill Building.

Staff continues to work with ENE and NextEra to finalize the purchase power agreement for the NextEra 3.5MW solar project. GMP has not sent NextEra any update on the interconnection requirements for the project. Staff does anticipate a signed PPA within the next month.

Other Business

ControlPoint is preparing a presentation for the August Commissioners' meeting. This presentation will be providing information regarding the necessary upgrades to the Wilkins and Houston Substations, including the estimated costs for these upgrades. Both the Wilkins and the Houston Substation could possibly need a total rebuild within the next 10 to 15 years after these necessary initial upgrades.

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for August 18th at 8:30 a.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Lily Burgess
Clerk of the Board