

**Minutes:**

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting:

April 21, 2023, at 8:30 am at Town of Stowe Electric Department Conference Room with remote participation available via Zoom.

**Present:**

BOARD MEMBERS: Larry Lackey, Chair; Heidi Scheuermann, Vice-Chair and Sara Teachout, Commissioner

STAFF: Jackie Pratt, General Manager (via Zoom), Brent Lilley, Director of Operations; Sarah Juzek, Controller; Michael Lazorchak, Manager of Regulatory Compliance; Amber Ives, Clerk of the Board

**Call to Order:** L. Lackey called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

**Agenda Approval:**

H. Scheuermann moved to approve the warned agenda; S. Teachout seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Approval of March 29, 2023, Meeting Minutes:**

On a motion made by H. Scheuermann and seconded by S. Teachout, the minutes of March 29, 2023, were approved.

**Financial Reports:**

S. Juzek stated that Stowe Electric Department (SED) ended the fiscal month of February with a total Net Income of \$420,034, which is \$261,876 than the fiscal year budget of \$158,158.

S. Juzek reported that:

- Operating Revenue was \$78k unfavorable to the budget with electric sales making up the majority of that loss as residential sales are down \$90k and combined commercial sales are down \$39k.
- Operating Expenses overall, were \$327k favorable to the budget with most of the gain being due to Purchase Power costs being \$341k below budget as the

warmer weather has decreased demand for natural gas and energy. In addition, snowmaking usage was 286 MWH more than the original budget.

- Other Operating Expenses were \$13k favorable to the budget mostly due to the Wilkins bond investment performing well.

S. Teachout inquired as to how the budget for snowmaking was determined. S. Juzek replied that Energy New England (ENE) creates the budget based off a three-year average.

The Board and S. Juzek also discussed how net metering and the new SED Tree Crew were accounted for in the financial report.

### **Sole-Source Procurement for Bucket Truck:**

J. Pratt recommended that the Commission approve a sole-source procurement for a 2024 or 2025 model year International bucket truck from James A. Kiley Co. in alignment with Stowe Electric's procurement policy.

J. Pratt explained that under SED's existing procurement policy, there are certain parameters that allow the Commission to approve for a single-source procurement and that SED was requesting this sole-source procurement for a new bucket truck as there is not a viable bid process for this type of specialized vehicle because demand for these trucks is high, supply is low, lead times are incredibly long, and costs are increasing.

L. Lackey inquired as to how SED determined that the James A. Kiley Co. quote was reasonable. B. Lilley informed the Board that James A. Kiley Co. is the only manufacturer in the Northeast and Southeast that builds a truck to the specifications needed by SED and that he confers with other utilities that have purchased these trucks in order to ensure that the price quoted is within reason.

The Board and staff discussed:

- That the final billed price of the truck could vary from the quoted price due to adjustments made based on the cost of materials at time of order versus time of manufacture.
- The ability to cancel the Purchase Order (PO).
- Anticipated closing price of the truck.
- Potential funding for the truck through Congressionally Directed Spending initiatives.

S. Teachout moved to approve a sole-source procurement for a 2024 or 2025 model year International bucket truck from James A. Kiley Co. in alignment with Stowe Electric's procurement policy with the understanding that SED staff will keep the Board

informed on the purchase price of the truck. The motion was seconded by H. Scheuermann, and the motion carried.

**Capital Planning Request for Proposal (RFP) Update:**

J. Pratt explained that SED was providing an update in order to keep the Board informed of RFP's that are being distributed in relation to items listed on the approved five-year Capital Plan.

The Board and SED staff discussed what some of the projects entail and how results from some of these projects can potentially help SED design viable and practical customer programs, determine load increases from beneficial electrification, influence rate structures, aid SED with managing demand, as well as assisting in budget planning.

L. Lackey thanked SED staff for the information and relayed that he is always happy to hear about what SED is working on that does not necessarily require approval by the Commission. L. Lackey requested that if SED provides the Board with information about a project that is new to the Commissioners, that SED provide a brief description that summarizes the scope of the project.

**General Manager Highlights:**

J. Pratt updated the Board on Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. (CCI) poles, the employee review process and results, information technology, the updated SED disconnection notice, and the award of two grants through the American Public Power Association (APPA) Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Developments (DEED) funding.

There being no further business, S. Teachout moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 am. The motion was seconded by H. Scheuermann and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amber Ives

Clerk of the Board