

Minutes: Stowe Electric Board of Commissioners' Meeting

November 20, 2024, at 8:30 am at Town of Stowe Electric Department Conference Room with remote participation available via Zoom.

Present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Larry Lackey, Chair and Sara Teachout, Vice-Chair

STAFF: Jackie Pratt, General Manager, Sarah Juzek, Director of Finance; Michael Lazorchak, Manager of Regulatory Compliance; Caroline Klosowski, Business and Communications Manager; and Amber Ives, Clerk of the Board.

Call to Order: L. Lackey called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

Agenda Approval:

L. Lackey moved to approve the warned agenda, S. Teachout seconded, all were in favor, and the warned agenda was approved.

Approval of October 16, 2024, Meeting Minutes:

L. Lackey moved to approve the October 16, 2024, meeting minutes. S. Teachout seconded and the minutes were approved.

Financials- 1st Quarter:

The Board of Commissioners and staff discussed the financial results of the 1st Quarter (July-September 2024) and impacts on the end-of-year forecasted budget.

Renewable Energy Standard- Tier III Updates:

M. Lazorchak notified the Board of Commissioners that Stowe Electric Department (SED) plans to carry forward the same incentives as previously offered in 2024 with an adjustment to the value of the incentive being offered for Electric Vehicles (EV). The incentive for new All-Electric Vehicles (AEV) will be based off the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP).

Updated Utility Right-of-Way Policy:

SED staff and the Board of Commissioners discussed SED's right-of-way (ROW) policy and updating the policy to increase the width for underground distribution service from twenty-five feet to thirty feet.

S. Teachout made a motion to adopt the updated right-of-way policy as presented. L. Lackey seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Drug Policy Approval:

J. Pratt informed the Board of Commissioners that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) collective bargaining agreement specifically refers to two SED policies: the Travel Policy and the Drug & Alcohol Policy. Due to this, SED staff have been working to update these policies to ensure that they are current, in compliance with Vermont state laws, and that the policies differentiate between Commercial Driver's License (CDL) employees and non-CDL employees.

J. Pratt presented the policies to the Board of Commissioners for their review.

S. Teachout made a motion to approve the two employee policies, "Stowe Electric Department Drug & Alcohol Policy Non-CDL Employees" and "Stowe Electric Department Drug & Alcohol Policy CDL Employees & Applicants" as presented. L. Lackey seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the two policies were approved.

General Manager Highlights:

J. Pratt and the Board of Commissioners discussed:

- Projects and future project financing
- The role of the Beneficial Electrification League (BEL)
- The Outback Acres Solar project termination
- A potential Flex Load Management Program & partnership with Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC)
- Human Resource & Communication Updates
- VT Transco Equity Purchase
- Letter of support for SED's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Exemption Application
- Reliability Index Targets

Other Business:

J. Pratt shared a 3D model of the hydroelectric turbine, as well as designs for the Mill, Powerhouse and Millwright's Office.

There being no further business, S. Teachout made a motion to adjourn. L. Lackey seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Ives

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Clerk of the Board