

## **Minutes:**

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting

August 23, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at Town of Stowe Electric Conference Room

### **Present:**

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

STAFF: Patricia ("Trish") Waugh, Interim Manager; Robert Vogel, Controller; David Kresock, Director of Operations; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

Dick called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

### **Approval of the July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 were approved.

### **Financial Report: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2019 Financials with Summary**

The bottom line through the first 6 months SED had a net profit of \$113,901. Expenses are lower across the board with the exception of Other Expenses, which mostly consist of the arbitrage payment. Energy costs are down, but revenue are in line with last year. The customer refunds due back from the rate adjustment of \$164,000 in May is included in the revenue. Snowmaking revenue is lower than budgeted. Robert elaborated on the fact that SED's Budget is a straight-line budget, and not a seasonal budget. Advantages and disadvantages of the two budget types were discussed in detail. Larry inquired about the tracking of the cost of the Village Undergrounding project. SED cannot contribute to the Undergrounding project and is keeping track of the many work orders (so far about 30 work orders). SED is billing the Town for the costs of the individual work orders, as well as Silas's foreman time. David's time is not being billed to the Town. Rebates for electric vehicles (EV) and cold climate heat pumps (ccHP) so far total \$5,150. VELCO dividends are \$110,905 higher than budgeted.

### **Regulatory Update**

The Regulatory Update was part of the Board package, but was not discussed. The Update included information about 2018 Renewable Energy Standard (RES) Compliance filing that is due on August 31<sup>st</sup> as well as the recently published article in the Stowe Reporter about Stowe's Cold Climate Heat Pump program.

## Operations Report

David elaborated on the continued work on the undergrounding of the transmission line. The second underground transmission conductor has been terminated on Shaw Hill and is ready to be installed by SED's crews. SED is currently in the process of scheduling an outage for about 2 - 4 hours with the Mountain around September 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> to swap out the third and final conductor. Once this last conductor is replaced, the entire Shaw Hill underground will have been replaced, increasing the reliability in this section. SED will need to have one more scheduled outage to reconfigure the conductors on each riser so that the spare conductor can be used in all positions.

Stowe experienced two large outage events, on July 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> due to strong storms passing through the area, wreaking havoc. On July 28<sup>th</sup>, a tree fell on the Mountain line behind the High School taking out both the Houston Substation and Lodge Substation. VELCO system operators were able to pinpoint the location for SED to go right to the area and remove the tree limiting the outage time to 58 minutes. This storm also brought down a huge maple on the three phase line feeding Holmes Lane resulting in two broken poles. The line crews worked into the early morning hours replacing the poles and repairing the lines. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, trees on the line on Nebraska Valley Road caused the outage.

The protection settings on the two solar PCC reclosers and the Moscow Road mainline recloser have been updated and all three appear to be coordinating correctly now. We had several outages occurring on side taps in Nebraska Valley that were causing the mainline recloser to operate ahead of the fusing which resulted in the entire valley being taken out. When a tree hits a line, a heavy branch comes down, causing a sudden in-rush of electrical current, the relay senses this and opens the recloser. If there is no damage to the line, the recloser closes back in within 15 seconds and restores power. The new setting will reduce outages to these few seconds, while the recloser opens and closes instead of causing a blown fuse and a long outage while the cause is located and the fuse is replaced. Tree trimming and squirrel guards help in preventing outages as well.

## Personnel Matter (Executive Session)

The Board moved to go into Executive Session at 8:26 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter and invited Trish Waugh and David Kresock to stay. The Board made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:40 a.m. and the motion carried.

Larry Lackey made a motion to appoint Patricia Waugh as the Interim General Manager, Heidi Scheuermann seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Larry Lackey made a motion that in the Town of Stowe Electric Department Standard Operating Procedures dated April 2015 any place where a reference is made to the General Manager, those powers on an interim basis be vested in Patricia Waugh, the Interim General Manager, Heidi Scheuermann seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Other Business**

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lily Burgess  
Clerk of the Board