

Minutes:

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting

May 17, 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; Douglass Haselton, Director of Operations; David Kresock, Director of Operations in training; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

Dick called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

On motion made and seconded, the Agenda was approved.

Approval of the April 12th, 2016 Meeting Minutes

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of April 12, 2016 were approved.

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

- MeterSense/CustomerConnect: New sign-ups and repeat visits remain constant.
- EV Charging Stations: April Revenue was \$38.50 for a total of 15 charging sessions.
- AMI: Over the course of the last month the AMI system has identified a few situations that might have otherwise gone unnoticed:
 - A badly corroded meter socket was identified before it could become a true safety hazard and possible outage situation.
 - A failing underground service between a transformer and building was identified. The building includes several unoccupied units, the building owner has been notified.
 - A system wide "sag" was identified on 5/10/2016. GMP had an issue but failed to notify SED. SED requested that GMP keep us informed of issues like this in the future.
- SEDC Billing Program: Jamie is working with FirstLight in Williston on a co-location agreement for SEDC servers. He is also working with StoredTech on planning SEDC hardware implementation services and hardware purchases. SEDC has agreed to pick up the cost of Interval Data integration into the MDM product.

Regulatory & Legislative Update

S.230 - Energy Development Improvement Act: The Energy Siting bill passed the House and Senate, requiring the Public Service Board to give substantial deference to land use directives outlined in regional and municipal town plans (such as Stowe's Planning Commission) as long as they are able to certify their plans either by the regional planning commission (such as the Lamoille Planning Commission) or by petitioning the Public Service Department directly. This fall, the Public Service Department is expected to issue the standards for the regional and town planning commission to adhere to (i.e. consistency with State energy goals for greenhouse gas production, building of efficiency, renewable and state energy policies, allowance for siting of renewable generation within that region as well as define restrictions) The carbon lifecycle analysis requirement for all CPG filings was removed, as was the provision that required the utilities to pay for the municipal and regional planning commission training.

Update: Recent NetMetering Registration: SED received a *Net Metering Registration Form* (reserved for solar PV systems 15 kW or less) for a proposed system that was in fact 15.6 kW in size in accordance to state statute. SED and the Public Service Department filed similar comments recommending that the petitioner either resubmit a re-designed system that did not exceed the 15 kW threshold, or resubmit the current project with the *Net Metering Application Form* designed for solar PV systems greater than 15 kW and less than or equal to 150 kW. The Petitioners withdrew the original submission, re-designed the system to fit the 15kW threshold and submitted a new *Registration Form* for a 15 kW system.

H.577 - Amending Public Power Purchase Voting Requirements: This passed bill, which has not been signed into law yet, changes the size threshold at which a vote will be required for municipal utilities and coops to enter into renewable energy contracts. These new criteria mean that municipal utilities and coop distribution utilities can enter into renewable energy contracts with out-of-state generators without a vote as long as the contract term does not exceed 10 years and does not represent more than 10% of the utility's peak demand. The new criteria for requiring a vote for purchasing capacity or energy from outside the state are:

- for a period exceeding 5 years that represents more than 3% of the utility's historic peak demand, unless the purchase is from a renewable energy plant; or
- for a period exceeding 10 years, that represents more than 10% of its historic peak demand, if the purchase is from a renewable energy plant.

Renewable Energy Standard - Act 56: The final round of comments were filed on May 6th. SED is expecting the Public Service Board to file rules by July 1st, initially implementing the RES effective January 1, 2017. On or before July 1, 2018, the Public Service Board is directed to begin rulemaking to implement the final rules. The stakeholders (including SED) have begun attending monthly Technical Advisory Group ("TAG") meetings to debate the merits of different technologies (air source heat pumps, ground source heat pump, wood pellet stoves, electric vehicles) and to evaluate how much credit each is worth towards the Distribution Utilities under the Tier 3 (Energy Transformation) category. SED is subject to Tier 1 (Total Renewable Energy) and Tier 2 (Distributed Renewable Energy) starting in 2017, but will not need to comply with Tier 3 until 2019.

ISO-NE March 2016 Solar Photovoltaic Interconnection Update: Matt distributed a graph and elaborated on the information provided regarding the energized solar PV systems. This information is collected by ISO 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 (e.g. daily Day Ahead load forecasts).

Solar Project Update

The Solar Project has progressed very smoothly and ahead of schedule. The solar panel delivery is scheduled for the week of June 6th, the installation is expected to be concluded within two weeks after delivery. The transformer has been set. Walker and Green Mountain Landscape are completing the plantings.

Financial Update (First Quarter Budget vs. Actual)

The Profit & Loss statement for the first quarter 2016 (Actual vs Budget) shows that overall net income is about \$75,000 better than last year, mostly due to better snowmaking revenue source plus SED has used less market purchased power. Expenses are close to budget and about 10% higher than last year.

Doug's Operations Report

Doug's Operations Report was part of the Commissioners' Packet but was not discussed in further detail.

Creation of Reserve Account for a New Operations Building

SED would like to take the \$300,000 currently remaining in the Spruce Peak fund to establish a building reserve fund. The Spruce Peak fund, originally \$750K, came from the Mountain Company and SED is able to release the remaining funds this year. The building reserve fund would be used for the renovation of an existing property or construction of a new facility to house SED. Additional contributions to the reserve fund would be the proceeds from the sale of the Kirchner Property as well as the capital contributions for the fiber up to the Mountain.

SED's next step will be to review this proposed action with the Public Service Department. At this time, no action is required by the board.

Potential Real Estate Transaction and Personnel Matter (Expected Executive Session)

The Board moved to go into Executive Session at 8:06 a.m. to discuss a potential Real Estate matter and a Personnel Matter.

The Board made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:03 a.m. and the motion carried.

On motion made, the Board authorizes a 3% salary increase for the General Manager Ellen Burt retroactive to April 1, 2016, the motion was seconded and carried.

Other Business

VLITE Update: Ellen elaborated on the map and list of the 9 completed site assessments. SED is still evaluating the budget and is waiting on the estimate from ChargePoint for the equipment costs. The EV charging stations are expected to be deployed in July and August.

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for Thursday, June 23rd at 7:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lily Burgess
Clerk of the Board