

**Minutes:**

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting  
June 30, 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 Care Manager; Mike Lazorchak, Manager of Regulatory Compliance; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

Dick called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Approval of the May 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of May 19<sup>th</sup> were approved.

**Approval of NextEra Energy 3.5MW Solar Project**

The Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) between Stowe Electric and NextEra is not ready for approval yet, since SED is still waiting for GMP's interconnection costs, which might not be available until this fall. The draft PPA was discussed in detail, including the option to purchase the solar array after 15 years, and the provision clause allowing SED to back out if GMP's interconnections costs are too prohibitive. Constraint circuits due to net-metering systems and large commercial projects were discussed.

Dick Marron stated that in concept the Commissioners are fine with the draft Purchase Power Agreement between Stowe Electric and NextEra as presented at the meeting.

**Financial Report**

SED ended the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2021 with a Net Profit of \$380,514, which is \$285,747 over the YTD budget. Trish noted that the 2021 budget was created based on COVID-19 forecast models and on a straight-line 12-month budget. Operating Revenues are \$456,722 over budget, with an increase of \$210,633 over budget for residential revenue, and the commercial sector recovering as well. Cash Flow continues to be strong. Since SED was very careful and conservative last year, there was no need to access the Line of Credit.

## **Operations Report**

The Operations Report was part of the Commissioners' packet but was not discussed in detail beyond past and potential future pole attachment applications from Stowe Cable as well as the broad-band accessibility and high-speed internet projects of the Vermont Communications Union Districts (CUD).

## **Regulatory Report**

SED continues to work on the net-metering 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 with SED's distribution system, as well as following various Rule 5.100, 5.400, and 5.500 revisions.

Mike L. successfully worked with SunCommon and Enphase on an agreement regarding new micro-inverter technology installed in solar technology. This technology is essential for linemen safety, and not related to the constraint circuit issues.

The Stowe Energy Committee continues to support e-mower/lawn care product electrification and e-bikes, in partnership with AJ Ski & Sports and Pinnacle Ski & Sports. Stowe's Energy Committee asked SED staff to provide an update on the Tier 3 rebates for their July meeting.

Moscow Mill Project: SED continues to focus on the Moscow Mill stabilization project for the west wall of the Mill and received favorable feedback from grant funding partners and regulators on their emergency stabilization project. The stabilization project is on track for completion this construction season, and SED continues to work with their contractors on a project plan and necessary permit applications. The last field visit on June 16<sup>th</sup> went well, and the contractor stated that the dam is in better shape than expected and no work is required for the dam this construction season. SED is now waiting for the contractor's draft response regarding the field visit and his findings.

Staff submitted an application for a line-item earmark with Senator Leahy's Office this month and is also tracking how ARPA funding to the Town of Stowe might be used for infrastructure and building improvements at the Mill site.

Staff continues to work with the Preservation Trust of Vermont for guidance and funding options on the stabilization of the mill building.

### Case 20-3563-PET - Stowe Electric's IRP

SED and the Department of Public Service (DPS) agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding on SED's 2020 IRP. This means the DPS had no additional comments and accepts SED's IRP. The next step is for the PUC to approve SED's IRP.

Qualifying Rebates:

SED received a reimbursement request from Efficiency Vermont for 39 heat pump installations for the first quarter of April 2021. SED is evaluating the accuracy of this report to verify the savings claim and reimbursement request (mainly based on the fact the SED's service territory does not cover all of Stowe, and a rebate might instead be for a neighboring utility). SED also received 2 qualifying rebates for electric vehicles in June 2021. SED's yearly rebate cap is the amount of the non-compliance penalty payment since Tier 3 savings can only be carried forward for 3 years and then these credits will expire.

Case 20-0703-PET – Moratorium on Involuntary Disconnections:

PUC ordered an end to the temporary moratorium on the disconnection of utility services on July 15, 2021. They also highlighted \$15 million under the VCAAP program and \$12 million under the VT Emergency Rental Assistance Program (VERAP) for utilities to seek funding for ratepayer arrearages.

**Other Business**

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for July 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lily Burgess  
Clerk of the Board