

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



January 10, 2018 Commissioner's Meeting

7:00 PM – Town Hall Selectman's Room

Commissioners Present: G. Robert Merry, Robert Snow, Kenneth Keyes. Also in attendance was General Manager Daniel Folding, Office Manager Eric Grover

See attendance sheet for the public sign-in.

G. Robert Merry opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Citizen Query

Nobody from the general public participated in this citizen's query.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

After reading the minutes from the regular meeting of December 12, 2017 provided, there were no corrections.

Snow made the motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of December 12, 2017. Keyes seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:04 PM.

Rowley Solar LLC Update

Manager Daniel Folding opened the conversation by saying the Rowley solar field on Wethersfield is still in the works. He wanted to turn over the conversation to Bonni Berkowitz, solar owner, who wanted to give an update on the project. She stated they were working through the different boards in town to get the project rolling. There was a tariff added to the construction materials that increased things to 50-200% more than the original cost. Berkowitz stated the engineers and other people can burden some of the cost, but they can't cover the whole thing. She has asked Folding if there was a way to change the PPA to be raised by a half a cent to help burden the cost. With doing this, Berkowitz has offered to take away the 1 percent escalator for the next five years to the RMLP. It doesn't look as though the project is going to make the March 30th deadline for the SREC 2 because of this holdup within the additional tariff charge.

Berkowitz spoke about the future of the project and the positive attributes it will give the town over the years to come. There are ways to help keep down the cost for the future, not only to the town or RMLP, but the whole town in general.

Folding addressed the board and compared this project to others that have been completed in the area. Not all the projects have been the same, but some have come in at a lower rate for PPA. Right now, there is an agreement in place at 7.5 cents and over 25 years that comes out to \$400,000.00. This is just strictly the increase by a half a cent and

doesn't include the escalator. Berkowitz said when this project is completed, it won't have a true output of 2KW because of how the panels are made and the way the sun shines on the property.

Robert Snow heard the term "joint venture" brought up in the conversation. He just wanted to make sure the project is theirs and not the RMLP or Town of Rowley. So, in other words, they would be making power through the solar array and the town would have a PPA contract to buy the power back from them. Snow just wanted to make sure nothing was meant otherwise. Berkowitz stated the only thing the RMLP would be the community solar program, but that is something to come later on.

2018 Operations & Capital Budgets

Manager Folding explained to the board things will pretty much remain the same for 2018. Folding passed out the two budgets and let the board review them. Folding has moved some money around where he thinks the department may need to use it for construction and replacement of items. One big item as it always is being the purchase power rates. It will show in the more years to come. Folding went over a couple of the plans he is wanting to do such as LED lighting and a more modern meter reading collecting system.

Snow made the motion to accept the 2018 Capital and O&M Budgets. Keyes seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:32 PM.

Electric Vehicle Program Update

Manager Folding thought the way to get this program rolling would be to contact the surrounding municipal lighting plants in the area to see if there was any interest in the program. Due to the cost of the getting it moving, it would make sense to see if we could draft something up and save each of the towns some money. They plan on having a meeting in the future to see what the interest is. Robert Snow said the RMLP should have an all-electric vehicle in the department. Folding said there is one in the capital budget for 2018.

Changes to Personal Policy Handbook

Manager Folding started by saying there was a request for a couple policy changes in the handbook. It states in the handbook all policy changes must be agreed by the board of commissioners. Folding has three policy changes to give out and there is a before and revised version in each packet. The three policy changes are:

- 505 – Stipend for Area Cost of Living
- 512 – Sick Leave
- 605 – Mutual Aid

Folding explained each policy and how it works now. If changed, those reasons were explained. The board would like to take these policy's home and look them over and not decide tonight. This would be discussed at the next meeting and will be included on the agenda.

Adjournment

Robert Snow made the motion to adjourn. Kenneth Keyes seconded. All voted in favor in favor at 7:46 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover

G. Robert Merry, Chair

Robert Snow, Member

Kenneth Keyes, Clerk