

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission  
And the Electric Utility Commission  
Meeting Minutes, March 18, 2019**

**Roll Call:** Commissioners Dennis Donahue, Steve Fitzhugh, Dave Maxwell, Nathaniel Miller. Others present: Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Utility Superintendent Pat Demasi. The meeting started at 6:30 PM.

**Approval of Minutes from Previously Meeting**

Motion by Dennis Donahue, second by Steve Fitzhugh to approve the minutes of January 18, 2019. **Motion passed 2-0.**

**Meeting of the Electric Commission**

**Budget Status Report**

The Electric Utility Commission reviewed the electric fund and CIP budget status reports for the period ending 2/29. Jeff Schulz noted that the budget revenue actuals slightly exceed the budget estimates and that the overall expenditures are under budget.

**Renewable Energy Interconnectivity Issue**

Steve Fitzhugh stated that the Army National Guard is proposing to install a 100-kw solar installation on the Army Guard Traing Center on the Norwich Campus. This project requires a 248 certificate of public good from the PUC, and as a part of that process, we requested a feasibility study. The study was recently completed by GMP on NED's behalf and it identified interconnectivity issues into GMPs transmission lines that will need to be addressed before the certificate of public good can be issued. The cost and specific fix is still unclear, however, it may require a new relay or transformer.

**Other Business**

Steve Fitzhugh updated the Commission on the proposed agreement between Northfield Electric and GMP regarding GMP's interconnection into Northfield's system to better serve GMP's customers, a portion of which are Northfield residents. Steve noted that the agreement is currently being further reviewed by GMP.

Steve added that work on the update of Integrated Resource Plan for NED is currently underway.

Encore Renewables has entered into an agreement with Mr. Goodrich for the development of a utility size solar project on the Bone Hill site along Route 12. Encore will be the developer and VPPSA will administrator the project. It will require a power purchase agreement with NED, and the cost will be 9.5 cent per kilowatt.

**Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**

**Budget Status Report**

The Water/Sewer Utility Commission reviewed the water/sewer funds and CIP budget status reports for the period ending 2/29. Jeff Schulz noted that the budget revenue

actuals are on-track with the budget estimates. The overall water department expenditures are under budget and the overall sewer expenditures just slightly over budget.

The Commissioners asked how the budgeting and accounting for Bull Run Solar works in regards to the water and sewer budgets. Jeff Schulz responded that per the State of Vermont's rules, the Bull Run developer was required to off take the solar production credits through an entity within the NED service area. The developers chose to off take the credits through the Town and the Water and Sewer Departments because municipalities are better equipped to do the accounting and offer guaranteed payment. In agreeing to be the off-taker, the Town negotiated an agreement such that the Town and Water and Sewer Departments get 17% of the production credits. In regards to the accounting and budgeting, NED reads the Bull Run meter and credits 100% of the production credits to Town and Water/Sewer Department electric accounts. The Town and Water/Sewer Departments then send a check equivalent to 83% of the check production credits to the developer/owner. The Town and Water/Sewer Departments benefit in that their electric account receives the credits which in turn lowers their bill. The credit from NED to the Town and Water/Sewer Departments is a not an actual revenue but a credit, therefore it does not show as a revenue in the budget. The savings is reflected in the lower budgeted amounts in the budget. For example, the electricity expenditure for the sewer department should be reduced by approximately \$12,000 per year.

### **Stormwater Issues**

Jeff Schulz updated the Commission on the South Main Street Stormwater and Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) elimination project stating that the engineer is completed the planning phase of the project. The project cost is approximately \$1.6 million. As discussed previously, the project will include the upgrade of the stormwater line on South Main Street and stormwater lines and stormwater treatment basins in the Slate Ave, Highland Ave., Prospect Ave. and Elm Street neighborhoods. 50% of the planning study is being funded through a grant from the State of Vermont. The goal of the project is to eliminate the CSO near East Street and further reductions of stormwater into the sewage treatment. The Commissioners discussed which entity would fund the project – the Town or Utilities or both.

### **Other Business**

Patrick Demasi stated that the new pump for pump #1 at the field was recently installed, however, the pump was not correctly designed. We returned the pump to the manufacturer for redesign versus retro fit on site.

Patrick also noted that we are working to replace the PLCs for the plant.

Motion by Dennis Donahue, second by Nathaniel Miller to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Electric Commission and the Water/Sewer Commissions. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager