

**Mansfield Municipal Electric Department
Minutes of Light Commissioners Meeting
October 15, 2019**

Present: Chair Neil Rhein, Vice Chair Frank Delvecchio, Clerk Steve Schoonveld, Commissioner Michael Trowbridge, Commissioner Jess Aptowitz and Light Department Manager Joseph Sollecito

The meeting was held at the Mansfield Town Hall Room 2AB and called to order at 6:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Rhein stated that this meeting is being televised and taped for future broadcast and asked if anyone in the audience was intending to record the meeting to please state their intentions. No one did so.

A complete copy of the Board packet containing all documents that are referenced in the minutes is on file at the Mansfield Municipal Electric Department office.

Citizens Comments- none

**Motion: To approve the minutes from the February 6, 2019 and September 24, 2019 Light Commissioners meetings
(Schoonveld/Delvecchio) Passes 5/0**

Town of Mansfield request for Bike Path Extension- Manager Sollecito invited Town Engineer Rick Alves and Town Manager Kevin Dumas to speak about a bike path extension from Court Street to East Street and the electrical work that would need to be done. Engineer Alves explained it will affect landscaping but no parking spaces will be lost. He said they are proposing lights on the west side as currently they are on the east side. There will also be a flashing beacon at each pedestrian crosswalk.

Manager Sollecito said they still have to go through the bidding process before the Board can take a vote on this but he believes it will be an improvement in lighting.

Town Manager Dumas told the Board that he has already met with citizens and addressed their concerns about the possibility of the lights being too bright.

Commissioner Aptowitz noted that this is a donation being made by the Light Department as this expense is in addition to their PILOT.

**Motion: To approve the request from Town Manager Dumas for a bike path extension to be funded by MMED
(Aptowitz/Trowbridge) Passes 5/0**

Mansfield Community Assistance Fund- MMED Office Manager Laurie Anderson and Dawn Saba from the West Side Benevolent Circle reviewed results of the Mansfield Community Assistance Fund. In 2018, \$2200 was awarded in utility assistance and in 2019 \$961 has been given out. These monies are kept in a separate account and a check is sent directly to the utility. This is a "utility fund" so the monies can be used for other utilities such as water. The expenses for 2018 were \$156 and in 2019 they are \$240.

Bid Award for Advanced AMR System – This item was tabled.

MMED FY19 Audited Financials – MMED Staff Accountant Joe Pereira told the Board that there were no issues and that MMED’s audit went well. He also said that MMED is in great shape and the only changes that needed to be made were minor adjustments with GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles).

Motion: To accept the Powers & Sullivan LLC audit of MMED for FY19 as presented (Aptowitz/Schoonveld) Passes 5/0

Hedging Power Supply Contracts – Manager Sollecito said that at the time he was preparing this information, he and Mayhew Seavey of PLM were having a discussion about how this price was very attractive. Five power suppliers submitted bids for both on-peak and off-peak periods. He reviewed the analysis with the Board and noted that some of this was time triggers but most of it was price triggers. The bid award went to EDF for average price of \$48.10 / mWh covering various periods of time from 2019-2021.

Distributive Generator Avoided Cost Savings – Manager Sollecito reviewed the avoided power supply and transmission costs with the Board. He said that there was just one day MMED could not run the distributive generator at full capacity but it was fixed the next day. He reminded them that it has to be running during the peak. There was \$821,000 in avoided costs for MMED for approximately a 16 month period.

Comments from Commissioners – Clerk Schoonveld questioned streetlights that he noticed were on when he was leaving the train station. Manager Sollecito said that some are owned by the MBTA and some are privately owned.

Commissioner Aptowitz said he still sees burnt out streetlights. He wondered if MMED had set up a program for someone to drive around town investigating this. Manager Sollecito said they should all be working at this time because they are LED lights but they should let us know if they see any not working.

Chair Rhein questioned the lights near Fulton Pond. Manager Sollecito said there is a temporary plan for the Fall Festival. There is a long-term plan pending an agreement that the Town needs to work out with a property owner. Chair Rhein thanked Manager Sollecito for MMED’s assistance with the Fall Festival.

Chair Rhein also questioned the North Main Street lights project. Manager Sollecito said that there is a total of 73 fixtures that need to be removed and resurfaced and so far 22 have been removed.

At 6:56 PM a motion was made by Clerk Schoonveld to enter into executive session.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the following reasons and to return to open session for possible vote to approve contract terms with General Manager:

- 1) Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 164, Section 47D and M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21, Exemption 2, to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with

nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining session or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

2) Vote to return to open session

(Schoonveld) Passes 5/0

Roll Call Vote: Delvecchio-aye; Trowbridge-aye; Schoonveld-aye; Aptowitz-aye and Rhein-aye

Return to open session at 7:19 PM. Commissioner Aptowitz stated for the record that the Board gave Manager Sollecito a positive evaluation in January 2019 and another positive review in July 2019. He said that Manager Sollecito received a 3% raise in January 2019 retroactive to July 2018 and tonight he would receive a 5% raise retroactive to July 2019.

Motion: To raise Manager Sollecito's salary by 5% retroactive to July 1, 2019 to the annual amount of \$172,029.25

(Aptowitz/Delvecchio) Passes 5/0

Motion: To extend Manager Sollecito's contract for an additional year to expire in December 2021

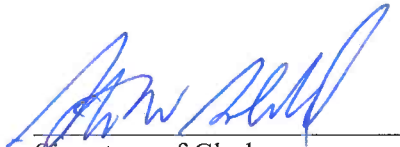
(Trowbridge/Aptowitz) Passes 4/0/1 (Schoonveld against)

Clerk Schoonveld voted against the motion and said he thinks Manager Sollecito is doing a fine job but he is not in favor of extending any contract.

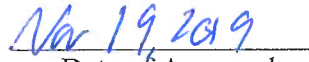
Motion: To adjourn at 7:20 PM

(Aptowitz) Passes 5/0

Respectfully submitted: Jacqueline Lee



Signature of Clerk



Date of Approval