



**SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' VIRTUAL MEETING
APRIL 25, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.**

Present for the Board: Chair John Hine, Paul Dobosh, Ron Coutu
Absent: Kurt Schenker

Present for SHELD: General Manager Sean Fitzgerald, Financial Manager Michael Conchieri, Director of Operations Adam St. Martin, Administrative Services Specialist Kim Mendoza, Customer Service & Marketing Manager Kelly Frazier

The virtual open meeting was called to order at 6:00P.M. by Chair Hine. There was a quorum, with three Commissioners attending,

Reorganization of the Board:

First was the election of new officers for the Board. After explaining that he would like to see a rotation of leadership: Mr. Coutu nominated Mr. Dobosh for Chair, Mr. Hine nominated himself Chair. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Coutu voted for Mr. Dobosh. Mr. Dobosh and Mr. Hine voted for Mr. Hine. Mr. Hine would remain as Chair.

For Vice Chair: Mr. Coutu nominated himself. Mr. Hine nominated Mr. Dobosh. A vote roll call was taken: Mr. Dobosh voted for himself, Mr. Coutu voted for himself, Mr. Hine voted for Mr. Dobosh. Mr. Dobosh was the new Vice Chair.

For Clerk: Mr. Dobosh nominated Mr. Coutu. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Dobosh voted for Mr. Coutu. Mr. Hine voted for Mr. Coutu. Mr. Coutu abstained. Mr. Coutu is the new Clerk

Board Vacancy:

Mr. Hine explained there were no candidates for the open Board seat from the town election. He said the Selectboard would publicly announce the opening, advertise it, collect letters of intent, then have a joint meeting with the SHELD Board of Commissioners to interview and select someone to fill the vacancy until the next election. The process has been started and the joint board meeting is proposed for May 21, 2024.

Audit Committee:

Mr. Hine explained that the role of the two-person audit committee is to meet with the auditors to review the results before the auditors present them to the Board. Mr. Coutu and Mr. Dobosh volunteered. Mr. Coutu motioned, and Mr. Dobosh seconded a motion, to appoint themselves to the audit committee. A roll call vote was unanimous: Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Minutes Approval:

3/28/2024 Open Session:

On a motion by Mr. Coutu and seconded by Mr. Dobosh, it was

VOTED: To approve minutes of March 28, 2024, by a roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

3/28/2024 Executive Session:

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh and seconded by Mr. Coutu, it was

VOTED: To approve and release, with no redactions, the executive session minutes of March 28, 2024, by a roll call vote: Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

Public Comment:

There were none.

Manager's Report:

Outages: This month had 3 outages. One animal contact on Chileab Rd impacting 11 customers, a transformer on Silverwood terrace failed and needed to be replaced, impacting 11 customers for 1 hour and 49 minutes. There was a brief two-minute outage on 4/18, which impacted 3912 customers, when a contractor at our substation inadvertently tripped a breaker lockout during annual maintenance.

AMI Meter Update: SHELD has installed 6,311 meters and the project is 79% complete.

Battery Storage Update: Mr. Fitzgerald introduced Adam St. Martin, SHELD's new Director of Operations. Adam has 15 years of utility experience with Eversource where he was a director of major projects in addition to previous roles in substation and transmission construction. Adam gave an update on the battery storage project. He reviewed the history of the project, stated that a site still had not been established, and listed the considerations needed to find the right site. SHELD is looking forward to having a location finalized by Q3 2024.

Fiber Update: Currently South Hadley customers number 2430. A letter to the Multi Dwelling Units in town will be going out shortly to explain the decisions the Board made at last month's meeting on how to move forward with construction in those locations.

Annual Town Disbursement:

SHELD pays the town an annual disbursement for administrative services they provide to SHELD. Since 2020, the amount has been level at \$180,000 per year. In consideration of increases in costs and inflation, management suggested an increase to \$200,000 for this year. Board members asked if an analysis had ever been done to determine the true value of the services. Mr. Conchieri stated the amount is a good faith estimate based on the services they

perform for SHELD because the town has never put together an exact figure. This payment is for FY ending 6/2025.

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh and seconded by Mr. Coutu, it was

VOTED: To approve payment of \$200,000 for town expenses, by a roll call vote: Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

SHHS Career Day/Senior Center Workshop:

Mr. Fitzgerald introduced Kelly Frazier who spoke on recent events to support SHELD's Strategic Plan initiatives of Community Stewardship and Workforce. SHELD staff presented at the High School's Career Day Series and spoke to students about different careers. Kelly attended with SHELD's electrician, 2 lineworkers, engineer, and telecommunications engineer who presented to 60 interested students on 2 different days this month.

Also, on May 9th Kelly and SHELD's fiber technician will be presenting information about Fiberspring to anyone interested at the senior center.

Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Mendoza recently spoke to high school students regarding SHELD's summer internship program.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:


No new business.

Adjourn:

On a motion by Mr. Dobosh, seconded by Mr. Coutu, it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting by a roll call vote: Mr. Dobosh-aye, Mr. Coutu-aye, Mr. Hine-aye.

The open session ended at 6:37 P.M.

DocuSigned by:

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Ron Coutu, Light Board Clerk

Approved: May 30, 2024

EXHIBIT A

List of Documents reviewed at the April 25, 2024, Municipal Light Board Meeting

1. Draft Open Session Minutes March 28, 2024
2. Draft Executive Session Minutes March 28, 2024
3. SHHS Career Day Photo