



TOWN OF ASHLAND ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
6 COLLINS STREET
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Ashland Electric Dept.

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July 10, 2018

**ASHLAND BOARD OF ELECTRIC COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

Tuesday
July 10, 2018
6 Collins Street
ASHLAND, NH
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Glenn Dion and Sandra Coleman
Jamie Lyford arrived at 6:30 PM

OTHERS PRESENT:

Linda Pack, Steve Foley, Linda Guyotte, Kathleen DeWolfe, Dale Weeks, Alan Cilley, Christine Cilley, Vernon Marion, Richard Pare', Mark Ober, Beverly Ober and Tom Peters

CALL TO ORDER:

Sandra Coleman opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M

Pledge of Allegiance

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting temporarily adjourned to hold Public Hearing 6:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Hearing opened at 6:00 PM

Sandra Coleman welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing and stated that questions and input from the Public would be appreciated and addressed as completely as possible. Sandra also advised those present that the Electric Department has not had a rate or customer charge increase in many years and we now find that option necessary. Sandra introduced the new Superintendent for those who did not know him and asked Steve Foley to give the opening statement.

Steve Foley passed out a handout (see attached) which included an explanation of why the Electric Department finds it necessary to increase rates and fees at this time. Aging infrastructure is the most important reason for the increase. Ashland has a lot of very old meters that should be replaced with digital and 644 poles on Circuit 1, of those 275 are 30 years old or older and need to be replaced. The average lifespan of a pole is 25 to 37 years.



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Glenn discussed the revenue and expenses of the Department going forward. Several customers present did not feel the Customer Charge for General Service increase to \$25.00 was fair and should be changed. The Electric Commissioners stated the Electric Tariff needs to be changed in order to make a new rate structure for customers who do not use as much power as some businesses. This is currently being looked at and the Tariff is being re-written with many changes. A lengthy discussion ensued to advise customers of the proposed rate increase of 1/2 cent per kWh for everyone with no increase in demand charges. Also the Department will look into rates for Non-Profits and possibly a Large General Service and Small General Service Rate.

Being no further questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:23 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Sandra Coleman re-opened the meeting at 7:25 PM

Glenn Dion made a motion to approve the Rate Increase as presented effective September 1, 2018. Jamie Lyford seconded the motion.
Vote: Glenn - yes, Sandra - yes and Jamie - yes.

A notice will be sent out with the August Electric Billing regarding the increased rates.

MINUTES:

Sandra made a motion to table the Minutes of June 26, 2018 until the next meeting. Jamie seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

FEMA update, they will be here tomorrow and Linda will work with Steve to get paperwork done by the Friday deadline and the amount looks like approximately \$7500. dollars.

Steve reported on an outage that occurred at the Ames Brook Campground. It looks like it was caused by a tired fuse. We feed into his transformer but unfortunately we do not know who owns it because it was installed so many years ago.

Steve asked the Commissioners for their advice on working on any equipment not owned by the Electric Department. Anything owned by a customer and worked on by the Department Personnel could be



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cause for a liability if any damage is done or an injury occurs. The Electric Commissioners all agree that no work is to be done by Ashland Electric on any customer owned equipment.

Chevy Colorado will be done Wednesday 7/11/18.

Linda Guyotte spoke regarding the department finances and bank balances. She also advised the Electric Commissioners about the cash flow issues. The Commissioners advised Steve to contact VEPPSA to find out if we have a grace period of ten days. Steve contacted New Hampton and they have been asked if they could have payment for their portion of the bill here by the 10th of the month.

Kathleen DeWolfe stated that during an tour of the Mill Building with the Fire Chief, Steve Heath, they noticed a light on in a portion of the building that should not have any power. Steve stated we are not aware of power to this building and we do not have the right to enter the building to check this out but the Fire Chief would. He could probably get to the bottom of the issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve has looked into the Wolfeboro Solar Pilot Program and discussion ensued with the possibility of sharing this information with Lee Sharps.

Steve advised the bills from Andrew Lane & James World need to be looked at because of a possible discrepancy in the price paid for their power. He will look into this as soon as possible.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Sandra Coleman, seconded by Jamie Lyford at 8:15 PM. Roll call vote: Sandra - yes, Jamie - yes and Glenn - yes.



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Sandra made a motion to come out of Nonpublic Session at 8:29 PM. Jamie seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Sandra - yes, Glenn - yes and Jamie - yes.

Jamie made a motion to seal the minutes of the Nonpublic Session. Glenn seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Sandra asked Linda to provide 3 years of Nonpublic Minutes for the Commissioners to review at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Glenn made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 PM. Jamie seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Linda A. Pack
Linda A. Pack
Ashland Electric Department