



TOWN OF ASHLAND ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
6 COLLINS STREET
ASHLAND, NH 03217

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Ashland Electric Dept.

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February 26, 2019

ASHLAND BOARD OF ELECTRIC COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
February 26, 2019
6 Collins Street
ASHLAND, NH
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sandra Coleman & Glenn Dion
Jamie Lyford - Unexcused

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Foley, Dale Weeks, Linda Pack, Tony Randall & Craig Moore

CALL TO ORDER: Sandra Coleman opened the meeting at 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Order of the meeting was postponed to hear from the two guest attendees prior to regular business.

Tony Randall attended the meeting to question the reasoning behind the increased wages for the two Linemen. He felt the Commissioners need to justify the expense of increased wages. The Commissioners advised there was a new job classification for both Linemen. They are now Journeymen Linemen. The problem is that we need to offer our Linemen a comparable wage to other Linemen in this area. It was also pointed out by the Commissioners and the Superintendent that if Linemen wages in the area is \$45.00 we cannot pay our Linemen \$30.00 and expect to keep them working in Ashland. We have lost 4 Linemen in the last 3 years to higher wage offerings from other jobs. Steve compared Woodsville to Ashland as they have less customers than Ashland and they pay their Lineman over \$40.00 per hour. Ashland Linemen were at \$25.12 per hour by comparison, now along with the pay raise their on call pay was cut in half. We have 3 people qualified to do this work a Superintendent and 2 Linemen who are on call 24/7. and if we don't continue to hire qualified people we will have to hire a crew from out of town for outages at a considerably higher cost. Steve would like to have an open house to explain to any customers who have questions about our operations.



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He has heard the rumors and encourages people to stop in anytime to discuss any issues they may have.

Craig Moore of the Town Highway Department attended the meeting to discuss the Thompson Street Project and the associated costs for the Electric Department. Craig discussed with Steve the engineering and what it would take for the Electric Department to change out any poles that may need to be moved. Steve advised these pole are not solely owned by Ashland Electric they are jointly owned poles. Steve stated if the Warrant Article is approved by the Voters in March he would like to see a committee formed with all Town Departments to work on this project together. The Electric Department will work together with Highway, Water & Sewer to do whatever we can to that end. Steve will contact JC Reed to get a quote for the work on Thompson Street that might require a crane and/or ledge drilling. Craig will check with the engineers to see if they can tell how much the poles will have to be moved. This will give the Electric Dept. a better idea of how many poles may or may not have to be moved at all and at what cost. The department can take care of moving poles but any drilling requires a special machine that we don't have nor a crane for some tree removals.

MINUTES:

Glenn made a motion to approve as presented the January 22, 2019 Minutes. Sandra seconded the motion. Vote: Glenn - yes, Sandra - yes 2-0

OLD BUSINESS:

Steve advised the Commissioners that the truck rental check is being withheld until he can speak to someone at Global Rental regarding the truck repairs and down time we have experienced. Linda is also holding the new rental bill that just came in.

Steve stated the truck they were going to put up for sale would not be worth selling so they will hang onto it since it can still be used.



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NEW BUSINESS:

The new Postage Meter has been leased and has been installed. Linda advised that one thousand dollars has been downloaded and will be billed to us. Going forward we will prepay the postage.

The Folder/Inserter machine has been ordered and will be a purchase as soon as the company can get one for us.

Discussion regarding the handheld meter readers would cost approximately five thousand each and we would need two readers. These would not be purchased until most of the other new meters are purchased and installed. The 200 new meters to be installed will start with North Ashland Road Village at Riverbend because those meters are the old dial meters.

Discussion of overdue bills and the number of days before the bills are due. The tariff says that we can disconnect for shutoff 30 days from the date of the bill not 3 months as is the current practice. By waiting for 3 months most people get too far behind to be able to get caught up especially with electric heat. Steve felt that if the first bill goes out and remains unpaid, the next bill going out should be stamped with a 10 day disconnect notice. The Department would still make payment arrangements with anyone willing to work with us to come up with a plan to pay their bill.

The Commissioners and the Superintendent thanked Dale Weeks for all of the time and effort he put into the new Handbook for Electric Service for the Electric Department. This was very well done and much appreciated.

Website needs to be updated with new rate schedule and also the new charges need to be added.

The Commissioners wish to change the meeting time and day to the second and fourth Mondays and time to 4 PM. Sandra will check



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with Jamie to see if he can make it at 4 o'clock or if 4:30 would be better.

Payroll and Accounts Payable signed.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Sandra made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Glenn seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. 2-0

Respectfully submitted

Linda A. Pack
Ashland Electric Department