Electric Board of Commissioners Meeting

 Meeting Minutes: 8/25/25

 Attendance: Kenneth Mason, Clayton Bailey, Jason Lefebvre

* Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM by Ken Mason, Chair.
1. There were no modifications made to the agenda.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Clay Bailey made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11th meeting. The motion was seconded by Ken Mason and passed 2 to 0.
4. The decision to seek financing through VPPSA or look through local banks was finalized. The terms through VPPSA were 10 years, at a 5.28% interest rate. The 2 local banks that responded to LED’s financing inquiry both had higher interest rates at 6.20% and 5.727% with the same 10-year term. The motion was made by Clay Bailey to seek the remainder of the financing for the AMI project after the grant has been applied through VPPSA at an interest rate of 5.28% for 10 years. Ken Mason seconded the motion, the motion passed 2 to 0. The payments for the loan would start once the project was completed. Ken Mason asked the question what determines when the project is completed? LED will get more information defining what determines when the project is complete.
5. A determination was made on the Transco equity reoffering. Clay Bailey made a motion to continue to have VPPSA purchase the units on LED’s behalf. Ken Mason seconded the motion, the motion passed 2 to 0. It was recommended to the board that VPPSA continues to handle the equity reoffering for Transco as it has in the past. There is no out-of-pocket expense to LED and it doesn’t add to the workload of the office staff. As it stands LED has 4,784 total units for a total value of $47,840.
6. General Managers update:
7. As of now, both hydro stations are not running, due to a lack of water and some equipment problems. Just prior to shutting down the Vail unit due to low water, the generator experienced a loss of pressure / fluid due to a bad gasket. The generator shut down on its own as it should have to prevent further damage. Repairs were made over the next 2 days and the unit had a test run for a few hours before shutting it down due to the continued low water levels. The Great Falls hydro was already shut down due to the low water levels when 2 leaks were discovered in the penstock. The headgates were lowered and the forebay was dewatered to prepare for the repairs which are still being scheduled. Additionally, the headgates which were damaged in the floods in July of 2024 need to be replaced. The department is in the process of sending out RFPs to contractors for repairs.
8. Regarding the rate case, discovery questions were received from the PUC and are due Thursday September 11th. Also, as requested by the PUC, the public hearing notice for the rate case was posted on social media and is being included in monthly bill mailings.
9. Several items were brought up in other business.
10. Ken Mason asked for an update on the sale of old bucket truck 10. The department is currently taking sealed bids until Friday September 5th. To date, LED has not received any bids.
11. Currently LED is down to 1 roadworthy bucket truck. Truck 10 was sent to Kiley’s in Amherst Mass. For some warranty work on the bucket controls. LED is hoping for a quick turn around and see it back early next week. The same day that truck 10 was sent, truck 9 came in from the field later in the day with a water pump leak. The parts were ordered with the hopes of it being repaired in house early next week.
12. During a preventative maintenance check at Burke View garage for truck 17, LED was notified that the truck would not pass inspection due to rust holes in the frame. Burke View advised that there was possibly a warranty on the frame. LED staff contacted 802 Toyota in Berlin Vt. And scheduled to have the frame inspected as required by the warranty. Ken mason asked if taking pictures and sending them to 802 Toyota would save time. LED advised the board we would check.
13. Ken Mason requested that LED set up a meeting to discuss NEK Broadband and some concerns brought forth by the Superintendent on pole attachment practices and procedures.
14. In wrapping up other business, it was reported to the board that the recloser for circuit B8 at the #2 sub has been repaired and installed and is back in service. Maintenance was done on the recloser by Green Mt. Power. Additionally, the 34.5 recloser for the #2 substation was inspected and found to be unable to be repaired.
15. A motion was made by Clay Bailey to adjourn the meeting. Ken Mason seconded the motion, the motion passed 2 to 0. Meeting adjourned at 6:06PM.