

Groveland Municipal Light Department  
Minutes of Meeting: December 11, 2018

Present: K. Cross, S. LaBelle, S. Daniels, K. Snow and M. Croteau

Time Started: 4:01 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed by all present.

Citizen query opened at 4:03 p.m. and closed at 4:13 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

- Motion to approve by S. Daniels.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. LaBelle.
- All in Favor.

Approval of Warrants: (19-19 & 19-21)

- Motion to approve by S. LaBelle.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Daniels.
- All in Favor.

Approval of Minutes of from November 14, 2018.

- Motion to approve by S. LaBelle.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Daniels.
- All in Favor.

Up Grade of Metering Software:

- K. Snow explained that our department renews our software license and maintenance and support with Honeywell a.k.a. Elster for our AMI metering software. This software is jointly owned by a server at Merrimac, with each utility sharing the cost of the renewal. The software is currently two versions out of date from the current offering. Our department is interested in upgrading to the latest version. This would give us the option to use more of the capabilities the AMI system have in place. The difficulty is we share the serve with Merrimac and spilt the cost. If one municipal chooses to not upgrade then the other one cannot. Which is why a discussion and a mutual agreement between our departments is crucial to move on toward progress.
- K. Cross asked what the process was for doing this on our own.
- K. Snow explained that he has spoken to NDS and was informed the hardware for this server maintenance in the coming year will have to be replaced do to the end of support for this server. So a new serve will have to be purchased to replace the old one with an approximate cost of \$11,000.00. This isn't something that has to rectify tonight. Our sales person, Peter Hunt, from Honeywell will be here tomorrow and will propose the upgrade on the software. I am seeking a discussion from the board regarding the above presentation.
- S. LaBelle made mention that if Merrimac has a change of heart.
- K. Snow would like to upgrade the 11.2 software but he got the feeling that isn't what Merrimac is intending. I will find out more information on just how much it will cost us to do the upgrade to 11.2 and have our own server tomorrow once it is discussed with Honeywell's salesman.

LED Street Light for Town:

- K. Snow went into detail on the 2018 Street Lighting Bill for the town of Groveland. As you are all aware, that GELD participated in a program with MA DOER to upgrade the inefficient HPS street lights in town with more efficient LED fixtures. The switch to LED was completed in late August of 2017, thus when calculating usage, 8 months of our

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Calendar year were allocated to the old HPS fixtures (Jan.-Aug., 2017), while the remaining 4 months (Sept.-Jan., 2017), were allocated to LED usage. This made for some interesting usage calculations. The DOER Program allowed MLP's such as GELD to recoup the costs of installation by sharing in the energy savings: The MLP was to receive 75% of the saved energy costs, while the Town would receive the remaining 25%, until such time as the costs were paid off. These are to be calculated using the pre-conversion vs post-conversion usage figures. For budgetary purposes I had provided the Town with a figure of \$32,500.00, of which the Town Finance Director budgeted \$33,000.00. Due to the increased operating costs to our department, the street light billing rate for 2017 is at .1512885/kWh, resulting in an increase in rate of .02439/kWh. If GELD were to continue to follow the formula suggested by the state, the 2018 Street Lighting Bill would be \$41,802.00 after receiving the LED rebate. Knowing that this figure would present a challenge for the town in coming up with the extra money: 1.) have GELD abandon the cost recovery mechanism suggested by the MA DOER, and 2.) Cover the overage in energy usage cost for the year 2017(2018 Invoice). This provides for the easiest calculations and this will provide the Town of Groveland with the maximum saving when it comes to the Street Lighting 2019 Invoice and beyond. As an example: these are the usages for the following years: 2016: 289307 kWh, 2017: 237315 kWh and 2018: 115739 kWh. Essentially, in 2017 our department had spent \$29,000.00 in material to perform a system-wide streetlight upgrade, which is over a 50% discount. My question to the board is to write of this as a onetime benefit to the town.

- A discussion by the board ensued and the board of commissioners concluded with a Motion by S. LaBelle to except the one time write off of \$29,000.00 in materials to perform a system-up grade and \$8,802.00 for the Kwh on the 2018 Invoice for street light usage in 2017.
- K. Cross 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.
- All commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

#### General Managers Update:

- Cybersecurity Policy will cover passwords, content, access to server and alike. Todd Williams from Evolab will be coming to make a custom document for GELD and it will be presented to the board next month.
- GCT Update: K. Snow has spoken with Diedre Lawrence and she has informed me that at this time the trail date is set for 2021. However, she has also received notice that there would likely be a request for an extension from Philadelphia Assurance because of the departure of the person handling the case. Once the extension request, if applied for is dealt with I will be in discussions with the Attorney regarding the possibility of filing a motion for summary judgment against Philadelphia Assurance to rule the other party has no case.
- K. Snow asked the commissioner for an early release for our employees on 12/24/2018..
- The commissioner agreed for the release as long as it gets posted on the door.

Next meeting to be held January 8, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

- Motion to adjourn the meeting by S. LaBelle at 4:37.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. Cross.
- All in favor.

Approval of minutes:

*Karen E. Cross*

Date:

*M. HUCH 12, 2019*