

**Minutes:**

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting  
January 13, 2010 7:45 a.m.

**Present:**

Art Lloyd, Chairman; Denise Gutstein, Vice Chairman; Dick Marron, Commissioner; Ellen Burt, General Manager; Pat Householder, Controller; Steve Lambert, Superintendent of Operations; Ed French, SED Attorney; Dawn Haslam, Clerk of the Board

Art called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m.

**Approval of December 3, 2009 Minutes:**

Dick moved to approve the December 3, 2009 Minutes, the Special Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2009 and the Special Meeting Minutes of December 23, 2009; Art seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Superintendent's Report**

Steve informed the Board that the Luce Hill Substation was complete. He handed out a comparison list of 2008 to 2009 outages. Steve commented that since the 115 kV line had been energized and the new circuit at the Wilkins Substation energized there was a significant decrease in outages overall. Ellen added that numerous customers had stopped by the office and mentioned the decline of outages since the new line was energized. She told the Board she met with the Mountain Company and where previously they had seen voltage issues, their equipment is now running smoothly and they have seen a big improvement in reliability.

**Moving To Alternative Office Space**

Ellen began by explaining we have been looking at three options for a new office space. The first being to stay in our present space, renting the vacant space next door to us and doing a build-out. The idea would be to build three offices and a conference room. After doing a spreadsheet this option turns out to be the most expensive of the three. The second option is with Brendan O'Reilly and the Food For Thought building. The space for

rent is the lower half of the building, approximately 4,000 square feet. Rent would be \$5,700/per month and is ready for SED to move in immediately. One important factor is the space is fully wired for the Demand Meter display we will need. There are 20 parking spaces available. Ellen explained she spoke with Brendan regarding SED paying the electric bills and taking care of maintenance for the building in turn for a reduction in rent. They agreed upon \$4,000/per month with the above stipulations. The third option is to rent space from John Springer-Miller at the PAR/Springer-Miller office property in the old Farm House portion of the building. John brought over to Ellen a few different scenarios for offices ranging from 2,200 to 4,000 square feet in space. Both the Springer-Miller and the Food For Thought building are willing to do a 2-year lease as well as the option to build a garage on site. Ellen made note that on a fully staffed day in the office there will be nine people working. One of the office configurations had an upstairs office but no elevator access. The Springer-Miller is not currently configured for handicap accessibility. The Board reviewed the different options and decided that Ellen and Pat needed to take a second look at the Springer-Miller property and return with their suggestions.

Dick made two other suggestions on properties SED could check into for possible space: the Fire and Police Department's current facility, which will be available when the new Safety Building is complete as well as Chuck Perkins' property currently housing a Yoga Studio. It was agreed Ellen would check into both of those properties.

### **Executive Session**

Denise moved to go into Executive Session at 8:06 am to discuss legal matters; Dick seconded the motion and the motion carried. Denise moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:30 am; Art seconded the motion and the motion carried. No action was taken.

### **Other Business**

Art began the discussion with the final draft of the Municipal Charter that is up for approval at the next Selectboard meeting. The Charter draft does not authorize anyone but the General Manager to sign checks. SED needs to have another designee when Ellen is not present in the office. Dick told Ellen to give proposed language to Susan at the Town for submission. Dick also suggested we consider having a stamp or preprinted signature.

Ellen previously sent out two options/ideas to the Board for customer messages on future bills. The first message being "Did you know that 54.37% of SED purchase power is from renewable energy?" The second message being "Did you know that SED does not have power contracts with Vermont Yankee? If Vermont Yankee is not re-licensed it will not increase your electric rates." Denise commented that she liked the first message but felt the second message could bring a negative reaction. Ellen told the Board that she has plans to publish an article in the Stowe Reporter about renewable energy. It was decided to use the first message.

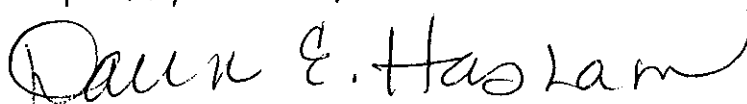
Art asked Ellen if she had any further communication from Ken Biedermann and his group of Concerned Stowe Citizens. There has been no contact since the December 3, 2009 meeting.

Ellen told the Board that SED would be closing on the Kirchner property with Bobby Roberts in January. It was decided the Board would discuss options for the Kirchner property at the next meeting.

All agreed that the next Commissioners' meeting would be held Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7:45 am.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn E. Haslam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'D'.

Dawn E. Haslam  
Clerk of the Board