

## **Minutes:**

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting  
August 28, 2009 7:45 a.m.

### **Present:**

Ted Teffner, Chairman; Art Lloyd, Vice Chairman; Ellen Burt, General Manager; Pat Householder, Controller; Steve Lambert, Superintendent of Operations; Deep Khosla, Town of Stowe Resident (left at 8:15am); Susan Tinker, Secretary Pro Tem.

Ted called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m.  
Susan Tinker was appointed temporary clerk of the board for this meeting.

### **Other Business:**

Ted started the discussion with some background information on Sargents Farm Road. There are three homes located on this private road that contained one of our earliest undergrounds, over fifty years old. Stowe Electric replaced the underground in May of 2008. In doing so, Stowe Electric had to dig up some of the road. The issue now is the condition of the road and whether or not Stowe Electric has repaired the road sufficiently.

Sundown was the contractor hired by Stowe Electric to do the work and Art asked if Sundown had taken a position. Ellen explained that she met with Paul Reed and that Paul felt that Sundown had put the road back in better condition than it was before he went up there. Ellen asked Paul to pay half the price of an additional grading, and he has agreed to do that.

Deep Khosla, one of the owners on Sargents Farm Road, asked that the Commissioners hear his side. He is not a full-time resident of Stowe, but he does pay a lot to the Town in property taxes. He appreciates that we replaced the old line, but he doesn't agree that the road is in the same shape that it was before. In his opinion, the road is more concave, with bigger ruts. The road was not perfect before, but the residents have had increased flats and alignment problems this year due to the conditions of the road, in their opinion.

Barbara MacLeod has given Deep an estimate of \$6,500 to \$8,000 needed to get the road back to a sustainable condition. Deep feels that Stowe Electric did not put the road back properly and is frustrated by this expense. Although he appreciates the offer to grade the road, he feels that one grading won't fix the problem long-term. Deep requested that Stowe Electric split the cost with the property owners. He indicated that any kind of compromise would be greatly appreciated.

Art asked about the length of the road. Ellen responded that it was about 1,800 feet. Art also inquired if there were any ditches or culverts along the sides of the road. Deep indicated that there really was not much.

Deep recognizes that the estimate of \$6,500 - \$8,000 would result in a better road than what they started with. He requested that Stowe Electric ask someone that we trust about the road condition both before and after the work was done. He asked that Stowe Electric consider how much it would cost to get the road back to the condition before the work was done and pay that share of the estimate. Art suggested that we would discuss it and get back to him. Ellen agreed to get back to him on Monday.

The Commissioners discussed the condition of the road and agreed that the road has continued to deteriorate, not because of the work that Stowe Electric did, but due to inadequate annual maintenance. In fact, Stowe Electric had to wait a few weeks before they could even begin the work there due to the condition of the road in the spring of 2008 when the work was done. Steve pointed out that our construction was only on the left hand side of the road, and reminded the group of the pre-existing road conditions, like the lack of culverts and ditches. Ellen asked our meter reader, Larry St. Cyr for his opinion of the road condition. Larry said that the road has never been good. He felt the road was about the same as it was before.

The Commissioners decided to offer the cost of grading and two loads of gravel, as this was primarily a pre-existing condition that may have worsened after the work was done. Ellen will draft a letter with our response for Ted and Art's review.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Art made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2009 meeting with one change. On page two, Integrated Resource Plan, POM study should be PLM study. Ted seconded the motion and the motion carried.

As a follow-up to the minutes from the last meeting, Ellen let the board know that she has not sent the letter to Stowe Mountain Resort on the transformer, but that she will do that next week.

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

Steve reported that Dan Crockett has taken off the instantaneous setting at the Wilkins Substation. The reason he has done this is do prevent the recloser from operating when a transformer three Amp fuse on the system blows, as has happened recently. When the recloser operates it takes out 2,200 customers. Steve feels this is the best temporary solution to this problem.

Ellen and Steve reported that the environmental aspect of the Luce Hill Substation has been taken care of, and that they are meeting with Green Mountain Power this morning to proceed as quickly as possible on the follow-up resulting from the equipment failure at the Luce Hill Substation.

### **Financing of Vermont Transco Equity Purchase**

Pat reported that Stowe Electric's portion of the Vermont Transco Equity is approximately \$1 million, and that the Department of Public Service has indicated that it is their view that a Utility that doesn't purchase would be viewed as imprudent. Pat mentioned that we have an opportunity to refinance our \$18.7 million dollar loan, but that voter and Public Service Board approval would be needed. There was some discussion on this. Following the discussion, the Board directed Pat to pursue the refinancing opportunity.

### **Executive Session: Personnel:**

Ellen said that she would need to postpone this topic until the next meeting.

### **Other Business**

The Board discussed the on-going problem that we have had with the banners winding up and flipping over and discussed some options that might reduce this problem. The Board decided that "weighting" the banners would be the best approach. Ted has spoken to Ed Stahl of the Stowe Area Association about this, and he has agreed to pursue this. Ellen will update Charles Safford.

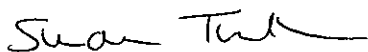
Art asked if we should set up a public informational meeting to address questions and concerns due to the inquiries we received from David Jaqua. Ellen suggested that we go back to the Selectboard to further communications. Ellen also recommended that we wait before making any decisions about the Kirchner property or the proposal submitted by John Springer-Miller.

Ellen told the board that a scheduled outage is needed at the Wilkins Substation in October to bring that Substation onto the new 115 Line. She mentioned that we could do one long outage or two shorter outages. The board decided that two shorter outages would be better.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:45 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Tinker  
Secretary Pro Tem