

**Minutes:**

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting  
December 3, 2009 7:45 a.m.

**Present:**

Art Lloyd, Vice Chairman; Denise Gutstein, Commissioner; Dick Marron, Commissioner; Ellen Burt, General Manager; Steve Lambert, Superintendent of Operations; Ed French, SED Attorney; Dawn Haslam, Clerk of the Board; Ken Biedermann, Green Mountain Inn; J.D. Langdon, Points North Energy; Janice St. Onge, StoweCAN; Janice Watts, SED Customer

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

Art began by saying a few words of appreciation for Ted Teffner, Stowe Electric Department's (SED's) Chairman who recently passed away. He opened by saying that on behalf of the Board he wanted to express the love, affection and sense of sadness that was felt by the loss of Ted. Art added that the Board was eternally grateful for Ted's strong leadership as well as his undeniable love and devotion to the Stowe Electric Department over his tenor with us. He will be sorely missed.

**Approval of October 8, 2009 Minutes:**

Art commented that a spelling error be corrected on the second page, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph to change "right-offs" to "write-offs". In addition, he noted that a comma should be placed on the second page, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, and last sentence between the words "we in".

Denise made the motion to approve the October 8, 2009 minutes as amended; Art seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Guest - Ken Biedermann**

Mr. Biedermann began by telling the Board he was the representative for a group of concerned citizens within Stowe, the group's concerns being for the future of Stowe Electric Department and Stowe as a community. The two issues Ken wanted to address were green energy and the most effective direction in which SED should move forward as a utility.

Art and Ellen both gave an explanation on how SED was currently exploring a variety of initiatives toward green energy. Ellen shared information regarding our partnership with Les Pike for a Farm Digester project, the changing out of 90 streetlights to LEDs at no cost to the Town, SED's departure from VPPSA one year ago and saving approximately \$1.5 million dollars as a result, the purchase of Green Energy from Florida Power, as well as purchasing with the Miller Hydro plant in Maine. She added that we were looking into consolidation of utilities as well.

Ken stated he felt the one thing that triggered his group's concern was the idea of constructing a New Operations center for SED. He stated his group of 5 concerned ratepayers felt if the future of the Department was uncertain we should not put time, money and effort into a project that may never be utilized. He stated that time, money and effort should be channeled into finding the appropriate direction in which SED should move forward. Dick interjected that the Operations Center was now on hold and the Selectboard would not be advancing any bond issues in 2010. He continued by saying he felt there had been a definite mind shift within Electric Department over the last 10 years, this directly being a result of the three newest commissioners. Ted Teffner had great expertise as an engineer and knowledge about the electric business with his many years at WCAX, Art Lloyd is a retired lawyer, and Denise Gutstein has previously run a utility and has worked as an electrical engineer. Dick expressed that SED has a strong Commission of individuals who, joined together, contribute a wealth of knowledge that has played a large role in the success of SED. He continued by saying that the Electric Department has and is actively pursuing all of the concerns brought up from Mr. Biedermann and will continue to make initiatives on Green Energy. Denise spoke on the Electric Board's fiduciary responsibilities for our operation front to be run as efficiently and effectively as possible but to also look strategically at where SED is going in the future. She furthered that efforts are ongoing as to staying a standalone utility, becoming partners with another utility, or possibly merging into a Public Utility District among other options.

Janet St. Onge from the Stowe Energy and Climate Action Network thanked Ellen for sharing the information with everyone in regards to SED's efforts toward green energy. She expressed she felt there was a need for better communication to the public on how we were working toward becoming more energy-efficient. Denise suggested in addition to the articles placed in the Stowe Reporter we could have a public forum where questions could be asked and answered. Art stated the Board would be happy to cooperate in a public discussion but wanted to make everyone aware that there are legal issues that would not be able to be made public until finalized.

Before exiting the meeting Mr. Biedermann asked for a commitment from Stowe Electric Department to adopt a process to notify interested parties of the direction SED is moving in the future.

In conclusion, Art suggested the group meet outside of the Board meetings to communicate the issues.

#### Points North Energy - J.D. Langdon

Mr. Langdon began by explaining he was present because of his interest in creating a Renewable Energy Training Center in Stowe. His thought was that having a Training Center would put Stowe on the map as a Green Community and in turn bring more tourists to Stowe and create more revenue for the town.

#### Trapp's Update

Ellen began by pointing out the memo included in each Board member's packet regarding the meeting SED had with Johannes von Trapp and his attorneys regarding the moving of primary metering applications. Steve noted the quote for the work to be done is \$3,000.00 and any additional costs would be the responsibility of the electrician working on the project. Steve explained the primary metering point for Trapp's is located at the entrance of the Villas. The feed to the Villas is above the primary metering, therefore all of the Villas are currently on a single primary meter. Steve explained that there are three single-family homes, each having an individual meter. SED will move the primary metering farther up near the Villas, then an underground primary will be run giving them an open point for the Villas. The relocation of the primary metering will occur on or about April 1, 2010. Ellen added that she would include in the agreement that the transformer responsibility would be SED's.

Art asked Ellen for a Smartgrid update. She told the Commission that the \$700,000 stimulus funding would have to be matched with a \$700,000 investment from SED in order to start a Smartgrid program. She elaborated by saying that SED will begin by placing Smartmeters at certain areas in town where it will be most beneficial to reduce our overall peak. Ed informed the Board that the PSB had opened a Smartgrid Docket. He mentioned that the monies for this project are coming from the Department of Energy. SED is working together with David Mullett and VPPSA to create a committee that will have a representative of the publicly owned utilities, the privately owned utilities and VELCO.

### Other Business

Denise asked whether the new bills currently being implemented would have a larger space to place messages to our customers. Susan joined the meeting, handed out an example of the new bills and told the Board that there will be more room on the new bills for messages. Denise suggested we utilize this space and add text stating how SED is making efforts to go green. One suggestion was to place the title of the most current press release in the text box.

### Executive Session

Art made the motion to go into Executive Session at 9:06 am to discuss personnel and legal matters; Denise seconded the motion and the motion carried. Executive Session adjourned at 9:26 am. Action was taken from the Board to unanimously accept Ellen's personnel recommendations.

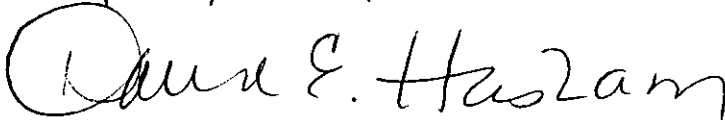
Art made a note that in future minutes it is not required to indicate who moved on a motion and who seconded the motion. He suggested after a discussion it be stated a motion was made and carried.

Art was nominated Chairman of the Commission. Denise was nominated Vice Chairman of the Commission. After discussion a motion was made and carried.

All agreed that the next Commissioners' meeting would be held Wednesday, January 13, 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 cursive script that reads "Dawn E. Haslam". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Dawn E. Haslam  
Clerk of the Board