

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission
And the Electric Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes, December 5, 2022**

Roll Call: Steve Fitzhugh, Dennis Donahue, John Stevens, Charlie Morse. Others present: Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Gerard LaVarney

The meeting started at 6:30 PM.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion by Dennis Donahue, second by Charlie Morse to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2022 meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting of the Electric Commission

Upcoming Electric Projects

Steve Fitzhugh noted that the recently approved power purchase agreement approved by the Utility Commission, which included the purchase of power from the Howard Wind facility, is no longer moving forth. As a result, a VPPSA is negotiating with the owner of another wind project on power purchase with similar terms.

Steve also noted that the Bone Hill project is fully on-line and is reducing NED's power wheeling costs.

Also, the battery storage project on King Street is moving forward and that Steve and the Town Manager will be working with VPPSA to advance the project. The project will lower NED's costs through peak shaving.

The installation of smart meters for NED and the Water Department is also moving forward. The next step is to get the final amount of the State grant funding for the project. The installation of smart meters is anticipated to begin next summer.

As discussed previously, the 35 Kv line that connects to Norwich and is in a floodplain, should be relocated outside the floodplain. Now that a building on the freight yard property, which was in the way of the project, has been removed the project can proceed. The project will require a 248 permit from the PUC.

Steve also noted that there is a concern of rolling power backouts this winter if there is a period of extended cold weather in New England. Any blackouts would likely be limited to 3 or 4 hours and customers would be provided at least two weeks advance notice. ISO New England is working on a plan to prepare for the potential outages. In addition, NED will be working with VPPSA on a public notice process which will be shared with the Select Board. John Stevens asked

if we can find out what the Washington Electric's plan is for the backouts. Jeff stated that he would check with Washington Electric.

Water Sewer Commission

Main Street Stormwater Abatement and CSO Elimination Project

Jeff noted that the Main Street Stormwater Abatement and CSO Elimination project is shut down for the winter. The contractor has put down the base paving coat on the road and has paved the disturbed sidewalks. The contractor will return in the spring to finish work on South Main and then fully pave the entire project area. In addition, the contractor will complete the remaining stormwater line work on the side streets.

Main Street Water Line and Tank Replacement Project

Jeff Schulz noted that the final engineering for the Main Street Water line and tank replacement is getting under way and should be completed the end of December or early January.

Motion by Charlie Morse, second by Steve Fitzhugh to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Electric and the Water/Sewer Commission. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager