

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission
And the Electric Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes, February 18, 2020**

Roll Call: Steve Fitzhugh, Dave Maxwell, Nathaniel Miller, Dennis Donahue. Others present: Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Utility Superintendent Patrick Demasi. The meeting started at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes from the December 11, 2019 Meeting

Motion by Dennis Donahue, seconded by Dave Maxwell, to approve the minutes of December 11, 2019. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Meeting of the Electric Commission

Update on Renewable Energy Projects

GMP has determined that the proposed 150-kilowatt rooftop solar project on the regional training center at Norwich can go to 100% power versus 15% as was originally thought due to the direct transfer issue. The increase to full power is attributed to WEC's recent system improvements which added sufficient head wind in the transmission system. The project is anticipated to go on-line in April and could increase to 300 kW.

The final agreement for the Bone Hill solar project is nearly complete to allow for the start of the project. The project property owner is now requesting to have the electric serve underground which will create some issues, but should not delay the project. The project developer's share of the required cost to solve the transfer trip issue will be incorporated into the power purchase agreement such that NED will receive a larger revenue stream over the life of the project.

The Certificate of Public Good (CPG) for the Dog River Hydro project is still in process, and once approved, will allow the project to be a net metered project. We are still negotiating the power sales agreement for the project with the terms of the developer's share of the required cost to solve the transfer trip issue to be determined.

The proposed Cabot solar project is also in need of a CPG and Cabot's contribution amount to the transfer trip issue will depend on the project's position in the CPG process queue.

Steve Fitzhugh noted that as part of the transfer trip issue and other system issues, he has been working with VPPSA on several needed system improvements, including: battery bank storage, battery bank upgrade, surveillance cameras, and other items. Steve asked for the Commission's authorization to continue to work on the above items and the Commission gave its approval.

Other Business

Steve stated that the agreement between GMP and NED for the West Hill interconnect is still in process and the final items to be addressed include the type agreement that the PUC will accept and whether a tariff is needed. Other items to be considered include compensation for energy loss and line maintenance.

Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission

Water Ordinance

The Commission reviewed a draft of an updated water ordinance. The ordinance is fairly lengthy and the Commission was asked to consider whether it should be shortened. Further, there was discussion regarding what constitutes a private line versus public main and responsibilities for both types. Staff noted that there are a number of water lines in Northfield that are classified as private by the ordinance and for which some water customers suggest are public mains that should be the responsibility of the Water Department

Utility Rate Payer Informational meeting

The Commission discussed the need to have a utility rate payer informational meeting to present the water/sewer and electric budgets to the rate payers. The Commission agreed to hold an informational meeting in June.

Motion by Dave Maxwell, second by Dennis Donahue to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Electric Commission and the Water/Sewer Commissions. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager