

**VILLAGE OF SKANEATELES
MUNICIPAL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – October 28, 2015**

Present: Chairman Moffa, Commissioner Blackler, Commissioner Hall, Advisor Dienst, DMO Harty, Trustee Stokes-Cawley. Also attending were residents Mary Ellen McQuaid and Gregory Palmer.

Chairman Moffa called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes. Upon motion of Chairman Moffa, seconded by Comm. Hall, the minutes of the September 23, 2015 regular meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.

Electric System Improvements. DMO Harty reported that there was nothing new to report on the substation siting project though the crews have been installing new distribution cabling required for the new substation. In addition crews working on replacement of a ground transformer at rear of 11 Fennell Street required for expansion. Additionally, in connection with the site development work being done at Village Hall crews have been working on the underground connections required to allow removal of a ground transformer at the Post Office building. Today required the repair of a pole on Kane Ave. that was toppled by yesterday's high winds. DMO recommended that the Board propose a budget for annual replacements to implement the asset management plan developed by CHA.

AMR. DMO Harty reported that things are moving quickly now with this project. We have received all of the replacement meters and are working on acceptance testing of a statistically drawn sample of about 10% as directed by the Public Service Commission requirements. The Village has received all Gridstream collection equipment (radios, routers and connectors) for remote reading of the replacement meters, as soon as this system has been commissioned and made operational the new meters can be brought on-line. This new system and all new equipment will be operational by year end. In response to a question from Chairman Moffa, DMO confirmed that this system is compatible with and could be used in a smart grid implementation. The Landis & Gyr system prepares the Village for load management and can be integrated with smart thermostats. Comm. Hall repeated his recommendation that we conduct acceptance testing on 100% of the new meters. DMO explained why that was not a practical course of action based on the need to be completed by year end and that any existing meter issues were not a function of testing or calibration. The Board suggested that DMO might consider calling Boonville for any lessons learned in their deployment of similar meters.

NYMPA/MEUA. DMO Harty explained our power sources and monthly cost structure. Our NYPA hydro is pretty consistent at \$33K per month. NYMPA helps munis hedge their purchased power costs which, for us, ranges from \$10K to \$160K per month (winter peak). NYMPA is building its reserves to help the member munis to avoid rate shock during periods of peak demand. Purchases from National Grid run \$10K to \$25K per month. On average our cost is \$.05 per KWH for supplemental power. DMO also discussed the IEEP surcharge of \$.01 per

KWH, charged to consumers. This money gets returned to us for qualifying projects and also supports our rebate programs. Nearly all other electric operators offer a \$500 rebate for customers to switch from electric heat to other fuels. The Board will revisit rebates at the Nov. meeting, along with the Purchased Power Adjustment. Chairman Moffa said that he would revisit the IEEP matrix to share with the Board. Chairman Moffa suggested improved communication with resident customers.

Water System. DMO Harty reported on her meeting with Fire Chief Dan Evans, as part of an effort to keep communications open. She will be designing the East Lake Street line with the goal of bidding in January/February timeframe.

Village Hall/NYSERDA Grant. DMO Harty reported that the current work is part of the LEED requirements; we have removed impervious surface cover, we are installing rain gardens and sidewalks, and we are jointly improving the entry to our site and TOPS for safety. She believes all will be available for public use by Thanksgiving. Site redevelopment has required maintenance expenditures for a new sewer lateral, new water service and replacing some 30 feet of storm sewer. The storm water and drainage improvements will enable us to complete our LEED application. Comm. Hall asked about planned improvements for the back lot.

Sewer System / WWTP. DMO Harty notes that the Village's new assistant operator is inventorying the system in preparation for developing an asset management plan and a preventive maintenance program.

LED Street Lighting. DMO Harty reported that IEEP has standardized on the Cree product and can help with procurement; Cree is the product we have been conducting the current trial with. That trial was for 3 months and the Board needs to finalize a course of action at the next meeting, including defining our relationship with Solvay Electric who supplied the trial units. DMO favors doing all replacements with LED and asked the Board to consider a budget for annual replacements on a street or area basis. Chairman Moffa suggested that the IEEP matrix should be considered for this purpose also. Mr. Palmer supported the street-wide approach, but suggested that the sodium lights removed could be used for replacements. Chairman Moffa requested input on replacement frequency and financial capability of accommodating a certain program replacement. DMO also reported on the purchase of LED holiday lights with costs to be shared with the Chamber.

Complaint from Ron Beavers. DMO Harty reported that Mr. Beavers sent a letter suggesting that the Village should adopt a winter usage based rate for sewer based on his experiences in another community -- a complaint that sewer rates are tied to water usage, even though summer yard water use does not impact sewers. His suggestion about using winter usage only is not feasible because of the number of seasonal residents we have. The Board will consider any possible changes at its next meeting. DMO will draft a status letter to Mr. Beavers. DMO pointed out that sub-metering of outdoor spigots is a possible solution, as is a portable meter for one-time events.

Peter Moffa Draft article. Chairman Moffa explained that he has heard resident concerns that we are not doing enough to conserve electric energy use because it has low electric rates – and

that he intends to submit an article addressing that personally, not on behalf of the Board. The thrust of his remarks is electric rates and why they are what they are, energy conservation on a municipal level, and the Climate Action Plan. DMO Harty said that this would dovetail well with the emissions report that the Village needs to send out. Those present offered various suggestions, such as avoiding a discussion on rates. Trustee Stokes-Cawley believes the Climate Action Plan was officially adopted September 24, 2014. DMO Harty reported that the purchased power in 2014 represented 15% of our total power, yet its cost represented 59% of the cost of power purchased.

Next meeting. After discussion, all agreed that the next meeting be on **November 17, 2015 at 6:00 pm.**

Upon motion of Comm. Hall, seconded by Comm. Blackler, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards