

**Littleton Light and Water Departments
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes – October 2, 2007**

Present for the meeting:

Commissioners: Tom Rauker, Joe McCumber, Craig Gruskowski, Bruce Trumbull

General Manager: Savas Danos

Staff: Kevin Goddard, Joni Silveria

Meeting called to order: 7:36 PM

- 1) **Approve Agenda**—GM Danos requested an addition to the agenda. Under Water Department new business, add # 4: out of town water sales discussion. The Board approved the agenda as amended.
- 2) **Approve Minutes**
 - a. **Approve Minutes** –Regular May 8, 2007, Regular July 16, 2007, Executive minutes May 8, 2007, and Executive minutes July 16, 2007 - On a motion made by Commissioner McCumber and seconded by Commissioner Gruskowski, the Board voted to approve the minutes with an addition to May 8 minutes adding that under general information, number 4 strategy for litigation was in regards to the case brought about by former employee, Ms Ferrell.
The Vote: Gruskowski – Yes, McCumber – Yes, Rauker – Yes, and Trumbull – Yes.
- 3) **Employee Updates**
 - a. GM Danos gave reports on step-raises for Donny Callahan and Rob Hunt. He also advised the Board about temporary hire, Alex Brown who is leaving for the Navy in five months, to help Dan Patterson in the garage area.
 - b. GM Danos gave an update on the Mike Allan grievance. Commissioner Gruskowski expressed his concerns with regards to not setting a precedence by negotiating an unacceptable settlement. Manager Danos said he would keep the board apprised of the upcoming negotiations regarding this issue.
 - c. GM Danos made reference to the newspaper articles that have appeared recently with regards to streetlight replacement, rain barrel and installation, and thanking the community for complying with the watering program, thus reducing consumption.

Electric Light Department:

New Business:

- 1) GM Danos gave an update on the pending case of LELD vs. MA

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Development Finance Agency. Danos made note that based on the decision by the Board approximately a year ago, there are no further expenses for this appeal action, as our Attorney has exhausted the Appeal budget.

- 2) GM Danos updated the Board on the underground cable bid that was awarded to the Arthur Hurley Company.
- 3) GM Danos reported on the ICUEE Utility Export in Louisville, Kentucky which will be attended by Dan Patterson, Jon Stewart, and Scott Larsen. Nick Lawler and Scott Edwards will be attending the USC-GIS offices in Virginia Beach, Virginia at the end of the month.

Financials:

- 1) Gm Danos led a discussion on the topic of our light department management of our independent auditing firm, MH &Co., PC. There is currently a deficiency found in cash reconciliations between LELD and the Treasurer's office. The Board has suggested that we give the Treasurer's office one month to reconcile the account. We will revisit the issue next month.
- 2) GM Danos updated the Board on the Cash and Sales Reports.
- 3) GM Danos reported on the financial review and PCS reduction summary. The Board agreed with the 0.5 cent reduction in the PCA charge and asked staff to monitor closely our purchase power costs for the remainder of the calendar year.
- 4) GM Danos gave an overview of the department budget summary through August 31, 2007. Expenditures are within the range of the budgeted amount for all categories.

Power Supply:

- 1) GM Danos presented the power supply update prepared by Scott Edwards for 2007. LELD has terminated the MassPower contract as of September 1, 2007. As a result, a new service provider needs to be found. A decision on this will be made soon. Danos added that there is litigation pending, based on the termination of this contract through MMWEC. Attorney's fees for this litigation are covered and reimbursed through the service contract and monthly fees with MMWEC, as a project participant.
- 2) GM Danos provided the purchase power summary for the month of July 2007.
- 3) GM Danos gave an update on the MMWEC project. He stated that the project has been delayed due to the difficulty in preparing a contract that is acceptable to both MMWEC and the project participants. In addition, capital costs for the project have escalated, jeopardizing its value. Danos said he would keep the Board abreast and that LELD has not signed any long term purchase power contracts for this project, as of yet.

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Water Department:

New Business:

1) GM Danos led a review of adding fluoride in the LWD drinking water. More information will be gathered before any decisions on what the next approach will be. Commissioner Gruskowski will obtain a letter from the President of the ADA in his support of adding fluoride. All agreed that this issue is the responsibility of the Board of Health, and the Board would make a recommendation to the Board of Health, if and when requested.

2) GM Danos discussed the Cobb's well exploration and the two warrants that will be included at the special town meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Gruskowski and seconded by Commissioner McCumber, the Board unanimously voted to accept the article as written: Cobb's Well Development: Moved and seconded by the Board of Water Commissioners that the Town vote to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose of funding the development of the Cobb's Well site as a future public water supply for the Town of Littleton Water Department, utilizing rock wells; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said sum under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8(5), of the General Laws, or pursuant to and any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore. **The Vote: Rauker – Yes, Gruskowski – Yes, McCumber – Yes, Trumbull – Yes.**

On a motion made by Commissioner Gruskowski and seconded by Commissioner McCumber, the Board unanimously voted to accept the article as written: Ozone Generator - Spectacle Pond Treatment Plant: Moved and seconded by the Board of Water Commissioners that the Town vote to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of funding the repair and upgrade of the Ozone Generator at the Spectacle Pond Treatment Plant and for the cleaning of the No. 5 production well; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said sum under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8(), of the General Laws, or pursuant to and any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore.

The Vote: Rauker – Yes, Gruskowski – Yes, McCumber – Yes, Trumbull – Yes.

3) GM Danos reviewed with the Board two requests for waiving of fees for 40B affordable units: Village on the Commons and Mannion Place. The Board decided to hold off on a vote and asked the GM to look at early 2007 Board Meeting notes, as the Board may have changed its policy regarding the waiver of connection fees, in favor of a reduced water rate (similar to the senior citizen's discount) for the affordable units. In this manner, the home owners would be

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receiving measurable assistance from the Water Department, rather than the value of the connection fee possibly not being past down to the home buyer.

4) GM Danos discussed the out of town water sales issue with the Board. It was decided that until capacity issues within the town are resolved, no other sales of water would be considered. Danos added that he had received two additional requests for out of town sales and based on earlier Board conversations, let the interested parties know that this opportunity would not be available. Commissioner McCumber added that he still wants Danos to bring these requests forward for Board discussion, so that the decision is on the record.

Financials:

- 1) GM Danos gave an update on the water cash and sales reports.
- 2) GM Danos provided the water budget through August.

With no further business before the Board, on a motion made by Commissioner Gruskowski and seconded by Commissioner McCumber, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Savas C. Danos

Date

Approved: