

MINUTES OF THE 10/19/20 REGULAR MEETING OF THE HARDWICK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – VIA ZOOM

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WERE: L. GEDANKEN, N. SMITH, R. PREVOT, M. AMBROSINO, V. O'CONNELL, E. REMICK, E. DOW, S. CORNISH, C. GALLOWAY, L. AVERY, M. SULLIVAN, J. PATTERSON, B. DINGLEDINE, V. ABARE, L. GOLDBERG

\* CHAIR GEDANKEN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 1703 HRS.

\* THE AGENDA WAS MODIFIED TO ADD DISCUSSION ABOUT EMAIL FROM GM SULLIVAN (O'CONNELL), TO TABLE DISCUSSION OF COMMISSIONER QUALIFICATIONS TO A DATE CLOSER TO APPOINTMENTS (GEDANKEN), DISCUSSION OF GM EMAIL ABOUT AUDIT QUESTION/RESPONSE FROM JEFF GRAHAM.

\* THERE WAS NO PUBLIC COMMENT

\* V. ABARE INITIATED DISCUSSION ON VLCT INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR HED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, BUT CHAIR GEDANKEN QUICKLY ADVISED THAT THE BOARD WAS LOOKING FOR DETAILS AND TO UNDERSTAND THE SPECIFICS OF THE PLAN INCLUDING THOSE IN REGARD TO ANY EXCLUSIONS – AND FURTHER SUGGESTED THE DISCUSSION BE TABLED AND THAT COMMISSIONERS SHOULD GET QUESTIONS TO GM SULLIVAN FOR VICKI'S TEAM TO PREPARE FOR A FUTURE DISCUSSION.

\* J. PATTERSON GAVE AN UPDATE ON COVID19 ARREARAGES. JUST OVER \$19K HAS BEEN RECEIVED THROUGH THE VCAP PROGRAM SO FAR. TOTAL ARREAGES TO DATE WERE DISCUSSED AND CHAIR GEDANKEN SHIFTED THE DISCUSSION TO THE RECENT PUC RULING ON DISCONNECTIONS AND THAT THE VCAP FUNDS MUST BE APPLIED FOR BY THE END OF NOVEMBER, AND NOTED THAT ALL CUSTOMERS WHO QUALIFY SHOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN FUNDS. DISCUSSION WENT ON TO COVER THE PUC LIFTING OF THE MORATORIUM ON DISCONNECTIONS...PAYMENT PLANS/INTEREST RATES CHARGED/ THE COVID CIRCUMSTANCES AT HAND/AND DISCONNECT NOTICES WERE ALL COVERED. CONCLUSIONS WERE TO OFFER UP TO 24 MONTH PAYMENT PLANS WHERE APPLICABLE, AND TO REDUCE OUR INTEREST RATE TO .25%/MONTH ON OVERDUE BALANCES AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE...MOVED BY PREVOT/SECOND BY SMITH...MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

\* COMPARISONS OF VERMONT ELECTRICAL UTILITY BILLS WERE DISCUSSED AS ONE OF THE FOLLOW UPS TO THE SPECIAL MEETING WITH THE HARDWICK SELECT BOARD...THE GREAT BLUE STUDY WAS ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED – CHAIR GEDANKEN SHARED HER VIEW TO BE CAUTIOUS WITH HOW WE USE THE STUDY DATA UNTIL WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE METHODOLOGY ETC.

\* THE GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT WAS DISCUSSED AND GM SULLIVAN GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE H11 RIGHT OF WAY

\* HED'S AUDIT SCHEDULE/REQUIREMENTS WERE DISCUSSED – BOTTOM LINE IS THAT HED CANNOT MODIFY EITHER ONE TO LINE UP WITH THE TOWN SCHEDULE/REQUIREMENTS AND THAT THE "ADVERSE OPINION" ON THE TOWN AUDIT SHOULD NOT CREATE ANY ISSUES.

\* A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE 09/21/20 COMMISSIONERS MEETING BY PREVOT...SECOND BY AMBROSINO...MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MINUTES FOR THE 10/12/20 SPECIAL MEETING WERE TABLED.

\*VIDEO RECORDING OF MEETINGS WAS DISCUSSED WITH SIGNIFICANT INPUT FROM L. GOLDBERG. BROOK SPOKE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF AN "OFFICIAL" MEETING RECORDING AND WHAT THE

REQUIREMENTS ACTUALLY ARE FOR HED PUBLIC MEETINGS. CONCLUSION WAS FOR GM TO PROVIDE COPIES OF MEETING RECORDINGS GOING FORWARD VIA DROPBOX OR OTHER CLOUD BASED METHOD.

\* MOTION BY GEDANKEN TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A LEGAL MATTER – THE DISCLOSURE OF WHICH COULD PREJUDICE THE INTERESTS OF HED...SECOND BY SMITH. BOARD ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 0654 PM.

\* BOARD RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 0727 PM – NO ACTION TAKEN

\* MOTION TO ADJOURN BY PREVOT, SECOND BY SMITH...MEETING ADJOURNED AT 0728 PM

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