

MINUTES OF THE HARDWICK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
7/20/20 AT 5 PM

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE – SMITH/MITCHELL/PREVOT/O’CONNELL/AMBROSINO...AS WELL AS GM SULLIVAN

- COMMISSIONER SMITH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 1702 HOURS
- COMMISSIONER O’CONNELL REQUESTED BYLAW AND OTHER DOCUMENTS – BOARD DISCUSSED BRIEFLY AND GM SULLIVAN COMMITTED TO PROVIDE WHAT WAS AVAILBLE TO ALL
- COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION...SECOND BY MITCHELL THAT:
“The HED Board of Commissioners, at its regular meeting on July 20, 2020, unanimously voted a motion of appreciation for the decades of service from Commissioners, Gina Campolli and Lynne Gedanken. The Board will sorely miss their knowledge, their enthusiasm, resourcefulness, and good judgement in support of Hardwick Electric and its ratepayers.”
SAID MOTION WAS MOVED BY PREVOT – SECOND BY MITCHELL - UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.
- AGENDA MOVED BY SMITH...SECOND BY PREVOT...UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED
- COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMUNICATED HIS “SURPRISE” OF THE CHANGES MADE TO THE BOARD BY THE HARDWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN – AND WENT ON TO PRAISE LYNNE GEDANKEN’S SERVICE AND VALUE OVER THE LAST MANY YEARS TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. COMMISSIONER SMITH ALSO NOTED THAT THE SELECT BOARD HAD FAILED IN FILLING COMMISSIONER POSITIONS AS REQUIRED FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. COMMISSIONER O’CONNELL COMMENTED THAT HE “HAD NOTHING TO DO” WITH CHANGES MADE BY THE SELECT BOARD. COMMISSIONER SMITH ADVISED THE FULL BOARD (FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NEW COMMISSIONERS) THAT OTHER THAN PRESENT ISSUES WITH A CUSTOMER IN CRAFTSBURY – HED IS IN VERY GOOD SHAPE (FINANCES/LONG TERM PROJECTS) AND THAT A PRIMARY ROLE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IS TO SELECT AN EFFECTIVE GENERAL MANAGER AND TO SUPPORT HIM/HER AS NECESSARY – AND COMMENTED THAT THE BOARD HAS BEEN VERY HAPPY WITH GM SULLIVAN IN HIS HANDLING OF ISSUES AS WELL AS IN HIS PLANS/VISION FOR HED’S FUTURE.
- COMMISSIONER SMITH OPENED DISCUSSION IN REGARD TO MEETING MINUTES. HE SUGGESTED IMPROVING MEETING MINUTES TO PROVIDE MORE DETAIL AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE TIMELINESS OF APPROVALS/POSTINGS. COMMISSIONER PREVOT ALSO SUGGESTED GETTING A COMMUNICATION OUT TO RATEPAYERS AS WELL AS THE SELECT BOARD REMINDING ALL THAT BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN/PUBLIC...AND THAT ALL ARE WELCOME. COMMISSIONERS ALSO REQUESTED GM SULLIVAN TO RE-INVITE HARDWICK SELECT BOARD MEMBERS TO BOARD MEETINGS. GM SULLIVAN BROUGHT UP THE COMMITMENT (BY THE SELECT BOARD AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS) TO PARTICIPATE IN EACH OTHER’S MONTHLY MEETINGS. THIS WAS INTENDED TO BUILD RAPPORT AND A BETTER RELATIONSHIPS AMONG ALL AFTER THE BELLEVANCE EMBEZZLEMENT...WHICH WAS PRIOR TO THE EXISTENCE OF ANYONE PRESENT. GM NOTED THAT HED HAS BEEN PRETTY GOOD ABOUT DOING SO, BUT THAT THE SELECT BOARD HAS ONLY PARTICIPATED IN 1 OR 2 COMMISSIONER MEETINGS IN THE LAST 8 YEARS. GM COMMITTED TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE COMMENT SECTION OF CUSTOMER BILLS TO GET THE

MESSAGE TO OUR RATEPAYERS...AND THE COMMISSIONERS SUGGESTED A FORMAL INVITE FROM THEM TO THE SELECT BOARD.

- COMMISSIONER SMITH OPENED DISCUSSION ON THREE SETS OF MINUTES IN NEED OF APPROVAL. PREVOT MOVED THREE SETS OF MEETING MINUTES...SECOND BY MITCHELL...GM SULLIVAN CONTINUED DISCUSSION AS TO HISTORICAL/ZOOM TRANSITION CAUSING MOST RECENT DELAYS IN PROCESSING/POSTING MINUTES. ALL MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.
- COMMISSIONER PREVOT SUGGESTED MODIFYING FUTURE AGENDAS TO HAVE ANY EXECUTIVE SESSIONS TO OCCUR AFTER ANY PUBLIC INTERACTIONS - ESPECIALLY WHEN ANY PUBLIC DISCUSSION COULD OCCUR IN REGARD TO THE GM'S MONTHLY REPORT. IT WAS NOTED HOWEVER THAT PAYING EXPENSIVE GUESTS (OUR ATTORNEY'S FOR ONE) MAY NOT BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HED.
- COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A CUSTOMER MATTER – THE PREMATURE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF WHICH WOULD CAUSE HED TO SUFFER A SUBSTANTIAL DISADVANTAGE. SECOND BY PREVOT - UNIMOUSLY APPROVED – EXECUTIVE SESSION BEGAN AT 1731 HOURS.
- RETURNED TO PUBLIC SESSION AT 1802 HOURS – NO ACTION TAKEN
- COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A LEGAL MATTER – THE PREMATURE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF WHICH WOULD CAUSE HED TO SUFFER A SUBSTANTIAL DISADVANTAGE. SECOND BY MITCHELL – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED – EXECUTIVE SESSION BEGAN AT 1803 HOURS
- RETURNED TO PUBLIC SESSION AT 1806 HOURS – NO ACTION TAKEN
- THE BOARD DISCUSSED THE GM'S MONTHLY REPORT AND ASKED MULTIPLE CLARIFYING QUESTIONS.
- COMMISSIONER PREVOST MOVED FOR ADJOURNMENT – SECOND BY MITCHELL – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1825 HOURS.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED


MICHAEL E SULLIVAN (RECORDING SECRETARY)

Nat Smith
Secretary Okawa *9/22/20*