

**ELECTRIC SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**Meeting of Wednesday, May 8, 2019**  
**Ipswich Utilities Department | 272 High Street**

A meeting of the Electric Subcommittee was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Ipswich Utilities Office.

With a quorum present, Mr. Rauscher called the meeting to order at 7:03am.

Subcommittee Members present: Jon Blair; Jeff Civitarese; James Engel; Whitney Hatch; Dylan Lewellyn; Edward Rauscher; Michael Schaaf

Also present: Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

Not present: William Craft; Ray Leczynski

**Citizen Queries**

None.

**Approval of Minutes**

1. March 13, 2019
2. April 10, 2019

*Vote: Mr. Engel moved to approve the minutes for March 13, 2019 and April 10, 2019, and Mr. Hatch seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Discussion of Power Portfolio Strategy and Design**

Mr. Hatch distributed a memo entitled “Planning for GWSA/RPS Compliance”, and noted that municipalities can petition to use alternative methods of complying with the proposed regulations. He would like to see Ipswich invest in external, renewable sources of REC-producing energy. While the GWSA has a goal year of 2050 for total complicity, Mr. Hatch suggested that Ipswich may be able to propose their own timetable. This approach will require research to see where Ipswich currently stands if the proposed regulations are put into place, and what strides will be needed to achieve total compliance.

Mr. Engel noted that data may become convoluted as statistics from 20+ years ago are analyzed, and the Spot Market then is compared to its current standing. Mr. Lewellyn believes that the ELD has reports that will show how much power was purchased from various projects over the years. Mr. Engel also reminded the Subcommittee that it is important carbon consumption is reduced in a way that can be claimed in the power portfolio. Mr. Engel expressed concern that as nuclear resources are retired, Ipswich’s portfolio may begin to look “dirty.” Mr. Hatch noted that many communities will face that issue at the same time.

Mr. Schaaf agreed that an analysis needs to be done, but s not sure if Ipswich needs to consider a waiver just yet. He would like to see concrete data before a waiver is discussed. Because the hedge portfolio is currently in a state of maintenance, contracts expire about every six months. Discussion followed regarding what Mr. Blair’s immediate instructions for power purchasing should be, and Mr. Blair stated that because of the nature of the financial transaction, it is often difficult for him to coordinate purchasing both low cost and low carbon-producing energy. Mr. Schaaf suggested exploring PPA opportunities, and Mr. Blair responded that MMWEC’s latest strategy is to seek out opportunities after being told what to look for, versus presenting a menu of choices to the Town. Mr. Schaaf stated that overall, he would like the Subcommittee to refine Mr. Hatch’s proposal, and possibly consider drafting a RFP.

Mr. Blair stated that he is currently measuring where Ipswich stands and where we are going in regards to carbon-emitting inventory. Mr. Lewellyn stated that he has started communicating with firms that are able to audit inventory and data. Mr. Blair raised two questions for consideration:

1. Does Ipswich want to use the Global Warming Solutions Act as the measuring stick for progress?

2. Does Ipswich want to keep resources local, regional, or just obtain resources in general? (The latter option was discussed in example as fronting money for a wind farm in Nebraska in an effort to be part of a larger impact.)

Mr. Lewellyn suggested reaching out to MMWEC to see their metric filters so as to get a better idea of what kind of specifics are required to receive project referrals.

### New Business

#### WIND 2 UPDATE

Mr. Blair met with the Town Manager and Chief Assessor to discuss abatement and taxes, but currently, there is no guarantee of funds. Mr. Blair stated that he refuses to grant an abatement. The owners of Wind 2 have now lapsed six months, and are in violation of their PPA. He noted that by EPA standards, if the turbine is inoperable for more than six months, they are in violation of their contract.

#### BILLING SOFTWARE

July 1, 2019 is still the anticipated date for implementation of the Munis software update for customer billing.

#### AWARD

Mr. Blair accepted the Francis H. King Leadership award on behalf of the Town of Ipswich, which was awarded by MMWEC.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, May 23: Mr. Blair will be speaking at a Rotary Club meeting

Thursday, May 30: Mr. Blair will be meeting with the Planning Board to discuss solar power incentives

Tuesday, June 11: Mr. Blair will be speaking at the Finance Committee meeting

Wednesday, June 12: ELD Subcommittee meeting

#### SELECT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

As Mr. Rauscher and Mr. Craft are not running for reelection, there will be two new Selectpersons appointed to the Subcommittee.

#### FINAL MEETING

Mr. Schaaf noted that as Select Board terms expire, this would be Mr. Rauscher's final meeting with the Subcommittee.

*Vote: Mr. Schaaf moved to adjourn, and Mr. Engel seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

*The Electric Subcommittee adjourned at 9:06pm.*

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page  
5.13.19*