

MINUTES OF THE BERWICK ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETING
July 27, 2006

Present: Chairman Mayor John P. Prall
 Deputy Mayor Donald E. Clarke
 Mr. Howard Hall
 Mr. Don Regan, Superintendent, BEC
 Mr. Mike MacLean, Accountant
 Mr. Bob Ashley, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Jenna Reeves, Recording Secretary

Absent with regrets: Mr. John Rainforth

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
2. The Agenda was approved as circulated. With the addition of the domestic heat pump customer analysis spreadsheet under new business.
3. The minutes of June 29, 2006 were approved as circulated.

4. **Superintendent's Report**

 Mr. Regan reviewed his report and stated there has been more maintenance, but they are not as busy with capital work as previous years. He informed the committee that the hydro production is doing well and have equaled last year's output to date. Mr. Regan added that the production has shut down every year except for 1981.

 Mr. Regan advised the committee about the meeting with Perry Mitchelmore, and suggests appointing Mitchelmore Engineering to carry out the Emergency Preparedness Plan at the Factorydale Watershed. He stated that Perry provided him with quotes for the project and the suggested prices are \$10,000 for the EPP and \$1,000 for the Disbursements.

 Mr. Regan discussed the Ventus/Minas Meeting that Mr. Mike MacLean and he attended on July 18th. He said it was a good meeting but there is still some uncertainty on some aspects of the project.

 Mr. Regan went on to discuss the ELIIR case. He noted that on Sept 5 Lunenburg and Mahone Bay will participate in the case. The others in the Co-op have yet decided whether to participate.

 He went on to state that he and Bea Renton had a conference call with NSPI officials. He announced they are waiting for a formal letter regarding the NSPI position and explained that they will formulate a response to this.

5. (a) **Monthly Financial Report ~ Mr. Mike MacLean**

Mr. MacLean reviewed his report and informed the committee that the hydro system is providing considerable savings. He explained that the Commission is doing better than budget. The Commission expected to have a net deficit of \$21,745 but to date there is a deficit just under \$16,000. He stated that the general sales are well ahead of budget, but domestic sales are down by \$11,901 and industrial sales are also below budget. Mr. MacLean indicates this may be weather related.

(b) **Emergency Preparedness Plan**

Mr. Regan reviewed the emails sent from Mr. Perry Mitchelmore and recommended that Mitchelmore Engineering be engaged to prepare the required EPP.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded Berwick Electric Commission engage Mitchelmore Engineering to prepare an EPP, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 plus HST.

Motion Carried

(c) **Wind Generation & Tax Issue**

Mr. Regan reviewed his report and stated that the application of Municipal taxation to wind generation facilities constructed in NS has become an issue, and informed the committee that the level of taxation is higher than any other Canadian Province.

Mr. Regan outlined that Mayor Prall has spoken with Mr. Bob Wyre, and he may be able to find further information.

(d) **Domestic Heat Pump Customer Analysis Spreadsheet**

Mr. Regan explained his spread sheet regarding the heat pumps in homes and informed the committee that the customer analyzed is paying only about \$470 a year for heat. He stated that resistance heat is cheaper to install as backup heat for air-source heat pumps and the commission is getting little revenue from this and is incurring a large demand cost.

Mr. Regan questioned about a regulation that would allow heat pumps to be restricted. He noted that it would be great if the commission could measure what a customer is doing and develop a program to replace the heat pumps.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 31, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

8. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Mayor John Prall
Chairman

Jenna Reeves
Recording Secretary