

# Agenda Item - 03

## SHREWSBURY ELECTRIC & CABLE OPERATIONS

### COMMISSION MEETING

November 26, 2018  
7:00 PM

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** R. HOLLAND – Chairman  
M. LEMIEUX  
M. REFOLO  
A. TRIPPI

**ABSENT:** K. MARSHALL

#### **OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** M. HALE  
R. IACCARINO  
J. LAVERTY  
J. MALAVER  
JON. MALAVER  
M. QUITADAMO  
M. SARIPALLI  
M. THOMPSON – Town Accountant/Retirement Board  
G. GATSOGIANNIS – Retirement Board  
P. COLLINS – SMC BOD

1. Meeting Called to Order – 7:06 PM
2. Review and Consider Approval – Bill Schedules

The bill schedules were reviewed and approved.

### **3. Discussion with Retirement Board – SMC Privatization**

M. Hale reported that there were a number of meetings with SELCO Commission members – Maria Lemieux and Michael Refolo, Selectmen Moira Miller, and SMC Board members – Laurie Hogan and Lou Swinden negotiating the agreement to privatize SMC. Over time, the team eventually came to an agreement, and an amendment to the Franchise document was presented to the Board of Selectmen, the Issuing Authority, for approval. The approved amendment was then filed with the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable.

As part of the agreement, a special provision of the Retirement Law was recognized that impacted employees with twenty years of service who would be allowed to collect a “termination benefit” if chosen for full time employment by the new public access company.

Subsequent to the deal, the Executive Secretary of the Retirement Board retired whereupon the current Executive Secretary found a provision in the law that restricts earnings and may conflict with the agreement reached by all parties.

Following further discussion, a temporary understanding was reached by the Commission. A summary of the terms is as follows:

- New non-profit will take charge of the organization on January 1, 2019 as originally planned.
- SELCO will make quarterly payments to SMC and deductions for all salary expenses for M. Serra, E. Poplawski, and L. Bergman will be reduced from the payment. Health insurance will remain the cost of SELCO for these three employees.
- This temporary situation will be for no longer than one year. During this period, SELCO and SMC will explore other options in an attempt to get as close as possible to the original expectations.
- Options to consider include:
  - Seek further a legal remedy from an expert in retirement law
  - Seek Filing a request for determination with PERAC
  - special legislation via a bill or home rule petition

After further discussion,

***A motion:***

***SELCO maintain employment of the three original SMC employees, M. Serra, E. Poplawski and L. Bergman, for up to one additional calendar year***

*while exploring other options including:*

- *Filing a request for determination with PERAC*
- *Seek further a legal remedy from an expert in retirement law*
- *Seek special legislation via a bill or home rule petition*

*All other terms and conditions within the Franchise Agreement and SMC shall remain the same.*

*Motion made by M. Refolo and seconded by R. Holland.*

*Without further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.*

M. Hale to review the Franchise Agreement Amendment further to make sure that SELCO is in compliance.

**4. Review and Consider Approval – Meeting Minutes – October 23, 2018**

After a brief discussion,

*A motion:*

*Accept the October 23, 2018 minutes as presented.*

*Motion made by M. Lemieux and seconded by A. Trippi.*

*Without further discussion, the minutes were approved as amended.*

**5. Review and Consider Approval – October 2018 Electric Cash Statements**

M. Quitadamo presented and reviewed the October 2018 Electric Cash Statements.

- Cash Receipts were \$30,913,734, 8% greater than 2017 and even with budget.
- Revenue receipts were up about by 11% compared to 2017 and 2.4% less than projection.
- Total Cash Expenditures were \$30,811,041, 19% greater than 2017 and 8% less than budget projection.
- Total Available Funds were \$14,307,702, 6% less than 2017 and 23% greater than projected.

## **6. Review and Consider Approval – October 2018 Cash Statements**

M. Quitadamo presented and reviewed the October 2018 Cable Cash Statements.

- Cash Receipts were \$17,943,917, 6% greater than 2017 and even with forecast.
- Cash Expenditures were \$11,545,984, 2.5% less than 2017 and even with forecast.
- Total Available Funds were \$20,844,662, about 31% greater than 2017 and 6% greater than forecast.

***A motion:***

***Accept the October 2018 Electric and Cable Cash Statements as presented.***

***Motion made by M. Lemieux and seconded by A. Trippi.***

***Without further discussion, the October 2018 Electric and Cable Cash Statements were approved as presented.***

## **7. Review Proposed Revision to Change Zero Interest Loan Policy**

M. Hale reported that SELCO currently has three options available for zero interest to promote energy efficiency – added insulation, windows/doors replacement; solar panel installation and electric heating replacement.

He recommended that SELCO revise its 0% interest loan policy by eliminating the solar and electric heating measures while maintaining the insulation and replacement windows and doors program. The solar loan program will be replaced by a subsidy program developed by the state. Existing credit requirements, rules, and provisions for obtaining a loan will remain in place.

Following further discussion,

***A motion:***

***Accept the General Manager's recommendation to revise SELCO's 0% loan policy by eliminating the solar and electric heating measures.***

***Motion made by M. Refolo and seconded by A. Trippi.***

***Without further discussion, the motion was approved.***

## **8. Presentation – Three Year Electric “Road Map”**

Jonatan Malaver, Senior Engineer, presented and reviewed SELCO-Electric’s three year “Road Map.” Key elements that will be the focus over the next few years include:

- Feeder conversion – Converting the Logan and Rolfe Ave. substations from 5KV to 13.8KV will improve reliability and redundancy.
- Distribution – Construction of a new feeder coming out of Centech substation.
- Grid modernization/Smart Grid – Deploying new technologies including Automated Meter Reading (AMI), also known as “smart meters.”
- Starting in early 2019, switching 5KV to 13.8 KV work will be concentrated on one feeder that feeds Howe Avenue down Route 9 to Oak Street towards Sias and Maple Avenues. This includes the Imperial Village apartments.
- In 2020, switching will begin in the Shrewsbury Green/White City, Worthington and Muzzy Avenues, Svenson Road areas. Long term, the Logan substation at Worthington Avenue will eventually be retired.
- In 2021, switching work will be concentrated in the Harrington Avenue, Old Mill Road, Elm Street and Maple Avenue areas.

## **9. Review and Consider Approval – Operating Brief**

M. Hale presented and briefly reviewed the Operating Brief.

Every available personnel vacancy has been filled, a total of eight (8.)

## **10. Robert F. Lutz Award 2018**

Following a brief discussion,

The Commission chose an individual who will be announced on Friday, December 21, 2018.

*A motion:*

*Motion made by M. Refolo and seconded by R. Holland.*

*Without further discussion, the motion was approved.*

**11. Adjourned – 8:57 PM**

*A motion:*

*Adjourn the meeting.*

*Motion made by A. Trippi and seconded by M. Refolo.*

*Without any further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.*

The next SELCO Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 17, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Trippi, Clerk  
SELCO Commission

**Referenced Documents and Authors**

Commission Meeting Minutes – October 23, 2018 – A. Trippi  
Electric Cash Statements – October 2018 – M. Quitadamo  
Cable Cash Statements – October 2018 – M. Quitadamo  
Zero Interest Loan Policy/Energy Conservation Loan – J. Pratt  
AMI Meter Project Update – R. Iaccarino  
Operating Brief - M. Hale, J. Covey, M. Quitadamo, R. Iaccarino, J. Laverly, J. Pratt, J. Malaver, G. Onorato