

MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
Special Meeting
Atlantic City Electric – Reliability Improvement Plan
Thursday, September 8, 2016 – 11:30 A.M.

This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the statutes of the State of New Jersey.

Call to Order

Discussion

1. Atlantic City Electric Reliability Improvement Plan

ADJOURNMENT

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Present: Andrew Sarclette
Patricia Gross
J. Roy Oliver
Veronica Town, Atlantic City Electric
Susan Coan, Atlantic City Electric
Adalberto Lopez, Atlantic City Electric
Denise L. Peterson

Purpose of the meeting is for Atlantic City Electric representatives to provide updated information regarding the reliability improvement plan to the Township Committee.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Sarclette at 11:30 A.M. and attendance was noted.

Discussion

Ms. Susan Coan opened the meeting describing that the ACE and Exelon merger was complete in March 2016. With this merger Exelon is bringing a higher level of detail to ACE services which include fixing small problem to prevent future big problems. Additionally the new leadership that is in place encourages employees to learn as we grow. Mr. Lopez used the example of moving a pole that has historically been hit by vehicles instead of replacing it in the same spot as one difference in the way business is being done. It was mentioned that Exelon has made a science out of supplying electricity and works with many other companies.

Mr. Sarclette stated that Atlantic City Electric has always been a good company but he has been seeing the changes and improvements since the merger. Example: tree trimming to prevent trees hanging over the lines. Mr. Oliver added that when there is an outage it seems the power is back on sooner than in the past. Ms. Coan responded that Exelon/ACE is sensitive to the needs of the community.

Mr. Oliver questioned that with the merger is the company better equipped to handle hacking into the power grid. Ms. Coan responded that security breaches are a concern, however the reality is that there is nothing that can be done to prevent hacking; the best case scenario is knowing how to expeditiously respond and handle the attack. Ms. Coan stated that periodically across the nation an exercise know as Grid Ex is conducted to address handling cyber-attacks on the power grid. Mr. Lopez added that the current grid is smarter because it employs computerized switching. Exelon has a stern approach to responding to outages.

West/East Corridor Transmission Reliability Project – a section of this project runs through Maurice River Township. This section is referred to as the Lincoln Substation to Union Substation and includes rebuilding approximately 5.25 miles of 138 kV transmission line and replacement of existing poles with steel poles; only .50 miles of this will traverse Maurice River Township. Additionally the Union Substation will be upgraded. There is only one Maurice River Township property owner who will be affected by this project.

Ms. Coan expressed that concern exists regarding the BL England plant and “if” it is lost how will ACE supply power to the Eastern side; the current line is over 80 years old. Currently South Jersey Gas is in the process of seeking approval from Pinelands to run new natural gas lines to BL England and there is hope that approval will happen this year.

Ms. Town stated that the West/East Corridor project runs from Pennsville to Union and the project is scheduled to start in October 2016 and be complete in March 2017. Ms. Town stated that she has supplied the Township Committee with a “Fact Sheet” regarding the project and this sheet contains contact information for residents.

Mr. Lopez advised that projects such as this generally require about 5 years of planning before they can be implemented and offered that there is also a project being worked on in the Commercial Township area.

Ms. Town stated that safety and reliability are priorities for Exelon/ACE. The aesthetic of the surrounding area(s) are taken into consideration with these projects. For the area running through Maurice River Township the poles will have a brown 'weathered' appearance versus silver to blend into the surrounding area.

Mr. Sarclette asked about solar panel fields. Mr. Lopez stated that third parties install these fields; other considerations for solar panels are that each 'feeder' has limitations and each substation has limitation.

Ms. Coan stated that solar has plateaued; now the small roof top systems have limited impact to Atlantic City Electric grid. Solar panels can cause burden to Atlantic City Electric because of voltage fluctuation; when the individual systems are not receiving power from the sun they draw from ACE and thus the fluctuation.

Mr. Sarclette questioned solar panel substations. Mr. Lopez stated that only third parties can construct these installations. Mr. Sarclette explained that he is looking at the possible ratable for the township.

Mr. Sarclette asked if Atlantic City Electric would have any old poles for the recreational field area; either wood or steel. Ms. Town stated she would check on this.

Mrs. Gross asked if wood poles would be replaced with steel. Ms. Coan stated that steel is only used in the "overbuild"; wood is used in the residential areas. Mr. Lopez stated that the process of replacing poles is that ACE replaces the pole and then the other companies such as Comcast and Verizon replace their wires and remove the pole.

Mrs. Gross asked if ACE had a routine of checking of light outages. It was stated that ACE does not routinely check for outages and the online app for reporting both outages and lights is very easy to use. Additionally the outages app provides updates on the status of the repair. Further discussion regarding outages included the fact that even when repairs are made for outages a patrolling of the line must be done to ensure everything is fixed prior to power being restored. Ms. Town emphasized that residents/customers should all call to report outages; don't depend on your neighbor because the more "data points" that Atlantic City Electric provides the number of houses being affected by the outage. It was further discussed that ACE cannot repair service in flooded areas due to access and safety.

Mr. Sarclette asked if ACE contact the local OEM during emergency situations. Mr. Lopez stated that generally contact is made to the county OEM but Gordon does often contact ACE.

Mr. Sarclette thanked the representatives and stated that he appreciated all past efforts and the improvements that are planned.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:36 P.M.

Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk