



HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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General Manager

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Board Members

Laura Burns, Chair
Michael Reive, Vice-Chair
Tyler Herrald, Secretary

MEETING HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD

October 14, 2025
Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88497120027>

Meeting Called to Order

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP) was called to order by the Board's Chair, Ms. Burns, at approximately 4:00 pm on Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

Present:

Board Members: **Laura Burns - Chair**
Michael Reive - Vice-Chair
Tyler Herrald - Secretary

HMLP: **Thomas Morahan - General Manager**
Mark Fahey - Asst. General Manager
Joan Griffin - Business Manager
Brianna Bennett - Sustainability Coordinator

Ms. Burns read the following disclaimer into the record:

This meeting is being held remotely/or in person as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.

Credit Card Charges

The Board continued the discussion on whether to change the credit/debit card payment policies. The Board is looking to disallow credit/debit cards for automatic payment. Mr. Reive and Ms. Griffin met prior to this meeting to review the data.

Mr. Morahan presented three options; (1) charge commercial customers a 2.9% fee on their credit card payments, (2) not allow customers that are on autopay to use credit/debit cards, and (3) place all customers on a flat rate or percentage that use credit/debit cards.

The Board believes that there is a substantial amount of fees that could be reduced with some behavioral changes in how people pay their bills. Ms. Griffin clarified that debit cards are considered to be credit cards and incur the same fees. EFT (electronic fund transfers) and ACH (automated clearing house) are types of electronic checks that have far lower fees than credit cards.

Due to the associated credit/debit card and Invoice Cloud fees, it was decided by the Board that the proposed change to the credit/debit card policy, not allowing those on autopay to utilize a credit/debit card, be implemented January 1, 2026 and a marketing campaign will be created to inform customers.

Vote to change the credit/debit card policy as of January 1, 2026.

Mr. Herrald: "Aye"

Mr. Reive: "Aye"

Ms. Burns: "Aye"

Income Adjustment Rate

The Income Adjusted Rate is evaluated every six months. Currently, Income Adjusted customers are receiving a 15% discount on the *Customer Charge* and the *Cap, Dist, and Trans* rate on their statements. Ms. Griffin reported that we currently have 210 customers on the reduced residential rate, 2 on the IA electric heat rate and it cost approximately \$16,000 last year. Mr. Reive would like to promote the income adjusted rate as well as an equal payment plan based on annual usage and then adjust it once a year. Ms. Burns requested that one flyer and one email be sent out yearly to advertise this rate to all customers. Mr. Reive proposed an increase in the Income Adjusted Rate to 25% for next year; however, it was decided that additional information must be reviewed before a final vote is taken. Ms. Bennett will check with other light plants to see if they have a similar program to ours and what their rates are.

Approve Meeting Minutes

- 1. Meeting Minutes 8/14/2025**
- 2. Meeting Minutes 9/9/25**

Mr. Herrald: "Aye"

Mr. Reive: "Aye"

Ms. Burns: "Aye"

Financials - August 2025

Mr. Morahan presented the financials for August 2025. The revenue of \$3.5 million, less the \$2.9 million in expenses resulted in a net income of \$528,704. The year-to-date net income for 2025 is \$3.7 million.

month/year	kwh sold	revenue	expenses	net income
Aug-25	20,705,692	3,502,507	2,973,803	528,704
Aug-24	22,926,024	4,020,972	2,924,767	1,096,206
Aug-23	19,622,055	3,604,882	2,606,740	998,142
Year to date				
Aug-25	134,018,391	27,225,721	23,458,304	3,767,417
Aug-24	130,495,202	24,231,639	20,666,022	3,565,617
Aug-23	124,379,758	23,955,246	20,446,358	3,508,888

The plan is to reduce the Energy Charge in October to ensure that we do not exceed an 8% return. The reduction is due to the fact that we do not know the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) and pension amounts until the end of the year. Ms. Burns questioned why we cannot contribute more to OPEB than is recommended to lower requirements for future years. Ms. Griffin explained the calculation but she will have to research the question from Ms. Burns further. Ms. Burns and Mr. Reive opened a discussion on the PCA (Power Cost Adjustment) charge. Ms. Griffin explained that we are currently spending a little over \$.07 for everything, other than nuclear. Therefore, our nuclear power is less than half a cent and helping to bring down our fuel costs. She explained that we can get below that and go to a negative PCA but at this time she cannot justify it because we would be overcharging the fuel. Ms. Burns said that it was the Board's job to set rates but Ms. Griffin believes their job is to approve the budget and based on that determine what the rates are. Ms. Burns stated that "at this moment it is unclear to me what the Board's authority is in this area. We should discuss this with our attorney." Ms. Burns said that we purchase most of our energy through contracts so it is good and we know the price but when we buy the residual on the open market that is where we do not know the cost. Mrs. Griffin responded that there is a variable component to our contracts and that is the fuel. She stated that when our last rate study was done, fuel was over \$.09 and now it is down to \$.07 with nuclear being less than \$.01. We don't have another rate study to compensate for the drop because it takes too long, but we do have to collect our revenue in the correct period. Ms. Burns thanked Ms. Griffin for her work to ensure we meet our legal requirements to be under 8%. In addition, she asked to schedule a more complete discussion about rate changes in the short and long term as well as what is the authority of each party involved.

Updates: Transmission Line Project, Capital Projects

- Transmission Line Project

Mr. Morahan stated that he had hearings with the Siting Board last week that went very well. There were some follow-up questions that needed to be answered. Dierdra Lawrence and Rob Shapiro will be writing a briefing and that will be submitted at the beginning of December 2025. Final approval is not expected until August 2026. He stated that the Siting Board will make the decision on the route of the project but they may also have some stipulations/conditions for the project.

- Capital Projects
 - Insulator switch out

Mr. Fahey stated that work is scheduled to start on October 27, 2025 through the first week in November. There are eight (8) additional days to complete the road work after that on French Street and Hobart Street.

- Reconductoring
 - Circuit 9 is almost complete.
 - Circuit 6 (Elm Street) - Verizon stated that they will start setting poles this week so the project should be completed this year.
 - Reclosers will not arrive until February 2026 so that will be moved to next year's plan. The reclosers will remain at the same price as originally bid.

Next meeting will be November 18, 2025

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Herrald: "Aye"

Mr. Reive: "Aye"

Ms. Burns: "Aye"

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm