



# HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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## General Manager

**Thomas Morahan**  
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## Board Members

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

## MEETING HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD

March 10, 2026  
Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89222281177>

### 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, Laura Burns, at approximately 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Present:

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

HMLP: Thomas Morahan -General Manager  
Mark Fahey -Asst. General 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.*

## **Exploring Networked Geothermal Approaches in Municipal Light Plant Communities**

Mr. Reive explained that several municipalities, including Marblehead, are exploring network geothermal systems that are similar to pilots conducted by investor-owned utilities. The pilot would study opportunities for shared geothermal heat networks in communities. Hingham would not be committing to a project, but rather would be supporting the concept and share in the knowledge gained. Mr. Reive stated that all that is being asked for is a letter of support to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) supporting Marblehead's study.

Vote to write a letter of support for the study.

Mr. Herrald: "Aye"

Mr. Reive: "Aye"

Ms. Burns: "Aye"

Mr. Morahan will draft the letter of support.

## **Cost of Developing a Heat Pump Rate by UFS**

Mr. Morahan spoke with Mike Johnson at Utility Financial Services about developing a rate structure for heat pumps and was quoted \$3500. The quote does not include time and materials if the rate is implemented. Ms. Burns feels that legal advice is needed regarding a heat pump rate. Mr. Morahan said that he could contact Attorney John Coughlin, Town Counsel for the Town of Hingham, as well as Deidre Lawrence, HMLP's legal counsel, because board members personally benefit from this rate and less than 10% of the community has a heat pump. Mr. Morahan said that similar issues have arisen regarding solar incentives so the legal advice would be prudent and he will make the calls. Ms. Burns believes that the Board can take the position that anyone in town can take advantage of the heat pump rate, even more than solar. Mr. Reive stated that there is a legal precedent that the investor-owned utilities are being mandated to have heat pump rates and at least one municipality has one for its rate payers. Ms. Burns is already waiting on an opinion from Attorney Coughlin on the solar incentive as the Ethics Commission requested, he should be able to work on the heat pump one at the same time. Ms. Burns has already received verbal approval from Tom Mayo to call Attorney Coughlin. Mr. Morahan will contact Attorney Coughlin.

## **Review of HMLP Rebates**

Ms. Bennett provided an update on all of the HMLP rebates which are under the program named Electrify Hingham. Electrify Hingham is an initiative to promote responsible strategic electrification that empowers residents to be energy efficient and explore electric technologies. Electrify Hingham supports Hingham's Net Zero by 2040 as well as the state requirement, Residential Conservation Services (RCS) that mandates that municipalities spend one quarter of 1% of annual revenues on these types of conservation programs.

There are six areas to the program and the highlights of each:

1. Energy Assessments

2018-2025 there were 802 assessments completed which is approximately 10% of households and participation is increasing.

There are opportunities to expand outreach for assessments with mailers and information tables at stores and local events.

## 2. Weatherization

There is a growing participation in weatherization rebates, especially with the adoption of heat pumps. The typical weatherization rebate is maxed out at \$1,000. This \$1,000 rebate is covering a large share of the weatherization projects which are in the \$1,000-\$4,000 cost range.

## 3. Heat Pumps

There was a slight decline in heat pump installations in 2025. There were 31 installations in 2025 compared to around 50 in 2024. There is a shift toward whole-home systems so the rebate is typically around \$5,500 which is the maximum. HMLP does have a \$10,000 lifetime cap on rebates.

## 4. Appliances & Lawn Equipment

These rebates have a high participation rate with a low cost to HMLP. The most popular appliance rebate is the smart thermostat. Lawn equipment rebates are popular and we did not do any advertising. The rebate for central ac units is likely to be phased out due to heat pumps.

## 5. Solar & Batteries

There were 12 solar rebates awarded in 2025 which was higher than expected; however, there was the end of the year push as tax credits expired. Ms. Bennett expects a decline in solar in 2026. Hingham has a total of 134 solar arrays with approximately 3 MW of power.

HMLP does not have a battery incentive besides the \$30/month participation incentive with Connected Homes. There are currently 12 batteries installed but a very low demand response enrollment (only 1 is actively enrolled).

## 6. Demand Response (Connected Homes)

There are approximately 200 devices enrolled with Connected Homes. There is strong growth in thermostats. There was a net decrease in EVs participating in the program most of which is due to customers moving out of Hingham. The EV charger rebate goes up to \$600 and requires a 3-year participation. Only two chargers, ChargePoint and Emporia qualify for the charger program.

HMLP is projected to spend \$380,000 on rebate programs in 2026. Based on 2025 figures, 63% of spending went directly to customer rebates, rather than administration costs. The allocation of rebates is as follows; 41% heat pumps, 30% solar, followed by weatherization and then appliances. Although solar installations are decreasing due to no federal incentives and heat pumps are decreasing as well, HMLP will still exceed the one quarter of 1% spending requirement for rebates this year.

Ms. Bennett stated that she meets frequently with MEAM CES Energy Services Committee to ensure that HMLP is aware of any new technologies.

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

- 1. Meeting Minutes 1/13/26
- 2. Meeting Minutes 1/29/26
- 3. Meeting Minutes 2/10/26

Motion to approve meeting minutes from January 13, January 29, and February 10, 2026.

Mr. Reive: “Aye”

Mr. Herral: “Aye”

Ms. Burns: “Aye”

**Financials**

month/year	kwh sold	revenue	expenses	net income
Jan-26	18,663,309	3,435,869	2,512,217	923,652
Jan-25	17,398,152	3,370,665	2,809,722	560,944
Jan-24	15,054,254	2,713,343	2,468,537	244,806
<b>Year to date</b>				
Jan-26	20,387,416	3,435,869	2,512,217	923,652
Jan-25	18,138,428	3,370,665	2,809,722	560,944
Jan-24	15,054,254	2,713,343	2,468,537	244,806

Mr. Morahan stated that January was colder than average so our kilowatt hour sales were up. Our net income for the month was \$923,000. Part of the net income was the result of a \$600,000 credit from Watson Power Plant because we were basically a power producer. Mr. Morahan expects a credit again in February from Watson Power Plant but it will not be as large as the January credit.

**Updates: Transmission Line Project, Capital Projects**

*Transmission Line Project:*

Ms. Burns has been to the Select Board and the Advisory Committee twice regarding the transmission line project. The Select Board has approved the project and the Advisory Committee is still reviewing the information. The concern from the Advisory Committee has asked for a clearer explanation of the rate increases for the last three years, the borrowing structure, and just how the light plan will be funding this project.

Ms. Burns clarified that the original three 6% rate increases which total 18% were intended to cover the cost of borrowing for this project; however, our revenue has not increased 18% but rather only 6.9%. This is a result of rising power costs and the method of accounting for renewable energy credits (REC).

Ms. Burns said that the Board is going to promote the transmission line project beyond the regular board meeting and have a public information hearing in April. This public information hearing will be advertised to the public so that they can find out more about the warrant article and project.

Mr. Morahan stated that HMLP is expecting Siting Board approval in August 2026.

*Capital Projects:*

Mr. Fahey stated that the Elm Street project that was delayed from last year should be moving forward in the upcoming weeks as the telephone company will finally complete pole installation. In addition, the equipment ordered last year for the recloser installation is expected to be received next week so installation will be scheduled as soon as we have the reclosers. There was a question on the insulator replacements and Mr. Fahey responded that the insulators project was completed in November 2025.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Herrald: "Aye"

Mr. Reive: "Aye"

Ms. Burns: "Aye"

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm