



## HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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John P. Ryan, Chairman  
John A. Stoddard Jr., Vice-Chairman  
Roger M. Freeman, Secretary

REGULAR MEETING  
HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD  
March 30, 2021  
7:30 A.M. – Meeting via Zoom

Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89756766017?pwd=djBIVklsVndnVkZlMUUpYSZV5VTNjZz09>

### MEETING NOTES

#### **Meeting Called to Order:**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP) was called to order at 0734 on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 via Zoom.

#### **Present:**

John P. Ryan, Chairman; John A. Stoddard Jr., Vice-Chairman; Roger M. Freeman, Secretary; Paul Heanue, General Manager (GM); Tom Morahan, Assistant General Manager (Assistant GM); Paul Hibbard and Scott Ario of the Analysis Group; guests Laura Burns, Jenny Hook, Patti Coyle, Andrew Rohleder, Brenda Black, John Borger, Phil Resca and Michael Reive, Hingham residents.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The GM presented the meeting minutes for the February 23, 2021 meeting to the Board for their consideration.

#### **MOTION**

**A motion was duly made by the Chairman to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting. The Vice-Chairman seconded and they unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting.**

#### **Update from Paul Hibbard of The Analysis Group**

At the Board's request, Paul Hibbard of The Analysis Group updated his May 2020 presentation on the potential impacts on HMLP's load and HMLP's operations and finances due to the electrification on HMLP's load, generation and emissions to include commercial and industrial customers. Paul presented the updated presentation to the Board. Paul noted that there are fewer

businesses that are heating with gas and oil than homeowners in the Town of Hingham. Since there are a higher number of businesses on electric already, the rate of conversion is not high. Paul's analysis assumes that by year 2050 75% of homes and 75% of businesses will have switched to heat pumps, and 75% of homes and businesses will have converted to electric vehicles. Paul advised that 75% residential and commercial electrification leads to winter peaks in 2050. The peak is currently in the summer months. The impact during summer is muted as there are no impacts on heating during summer. The only impact would be the charging of vehicles at night after customers arrive home from work. The GM will post The Analysis Group's updated presentation on the HMLP website.

The Secretary asked if the new substation accounts for any potential growth from electrification. The GM opined that it does. When talks began regarding bringing in a new transmission line and substation, electrification was already being discussed. The initial build-out of the substation is not calling for a 4<sup>th</sup> transformer but is being designed to have enough space to put one in place if an additional transformer is needed when the Town is fully electric.

## **Financials**

The GM presented the Board with financial statistics for January 2021.

- kWh sold in January 2021: 17.4m kWh, January 2020: 17.2m kWh and January 2019: 16.0m kWh.
- Revenue for January 2021 was \$2.8m, January 2020 was \$2.8m and January 2019 was \$2.4m.
- Expenses for January 2021 was \$2.2m, January 2020 was \$2.3m and January 2019 was \$2.5m.
- Net income for January 2021 was \$581.2k, January 2020 was \$512.1k and January 2019 was \$(87.8k).
- YTD kWh sales for January 2020 was 17.2m kWh and 2019 was 16.0m kWh.
- Revenue YTD January 2020 was \$2.8m and \$2.4m for 2019.
- Expenses YTD January 2020 was \$2.3m and \$2.5m for 2019.
- Net Income YTD for January 2020 was \$512.1k and for 2019 was \$(87.8k).

## **Updates**

### **Battery Storage**

The battery storage at HMLP is installed and is in the process of being tested. There are some issues with testing that they are trying to work their way through. There are communication issues, including losing ability to periodically to talk to it. The COD has not yet been declared. The GM intends to have a discussion with the vendor regarding the liquidated damages clause due to the late delivery.

### **Additional transmission line and new substation**

Three (3) Board of Selectmen (BOS) meetings have been held regarding the additional transmission line and new substation: (i) an abutters' meeting and (ii) two meetings with the Advisory Committee. The Board of Selectmen showed support for project and deemed the new transmission line and substation as necessary. The abutters did not support the chosen location between Hobart Street and the old landfill. The BOS and Advisory Committee voted to take no action. They asked why the GM has not considered putting it in the landfill area. The GM explained that he discussed with the managers of the landfill and they stated there is no room. The further

you go away from the current Hobart Street substation, the more expensive it becomes. Just before the last Advisory Committee, the GM asked the team to look at the landfill and see if there is a spot there where they could put substation. Large areas in that surrounding area are Article 97 land, which protects open space. To convert open space from Article 97, it requires a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote by both houses of the Legislature. The Legislature does not like to lose current open space. The landfill is capped so there is not a lot of space available. A spot was found near containers on the way out of the landfill. The GM shared the location with the BOS and Advisory Committee. The GM approached the managers of landfill with this location and was told this could work for the landfill. It would not negatively impact their ability to provide the same level of service. The environmental consultants are in the process of looking at that piece of land to see if there are any conservation issues. The electrical team is also looking to see if there is enough land.

HMLP needs to decide what to do in terms of Town Meeting and whether or not to go forward revising language in warrant article. There is a call set up with the Town's General Counsel for March 31<sup>st</sup>, to see what the processes available in order to pursue additional transmission line and substation. The GM noted that he would like to thank Erin Kelly, Advisory Committee Agent, for assistance with the warrant article.

### **Landfill**

The Hingham town boards that have to weigh in, including the Planning Board, gave the project two thumbs up. There is a two-week period before they can give final blessing. That period has ended and there were no issues. They should be starting to build soon.

### **Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers**

There are multiple state grants available for municipal light plants to build EV chargers. The Assistant GM talked to the Town regarding potential locations. Those locations had high enough traffic that they would be frequently used and are located on Town-owned land. The Assistant GM applied for 4 level 3 locations – Station Street, Lynch Field, Carlson Field and one at South Shore Country Club. He is going to apply for level 2 locations. Level 3 is a fast charger and level 2 units take some time to charge.

### **Smart Charge**

The GM signed an agreement with the company for “smart charge.” This program gives HMLP the ability to see when and where customers are charging their electric vehicles. HMLP plans to roll out a rebate type incentive for customers who sign up for the program. The GM is scheduling a call for the week of April 5<sup>th</sup> to schedule the roll-out.

### **Choice Connect**

HMLP's current meter reading system requires them to be read by someone driving by monthly. This is fine for billing purposes, but in thinking about how to devise rates, HMLP needs to create rate structures that will incentivize behavior. In doing so, HMLP will need to know where to make infrastructure improvements when load is increasing. The system previously selected and installed has the ability to be improved by installing connectors throughout Town to get 15-minute readers 24/7. The GM signed an agreement with I-Tron about a month ago. HMLP currently uses I-Tron's technology now to read the meters. The current AMI system is only lacking ability to remotely shut electricity off. HMLP will have everything it needs from system at 1/3<sup>rd</sup> the cost. There will be 25+ collectors.

### **Status of SB 2995 – An Act creating a next-generation roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy**

Previously munis were not required to be a certain percentage of carbon free. Regardless, as of January, HMLP was 58% carbon-free. The Governor recently signed SB 2995. This now requires munis to be 50% non-carbon emitting by 2030, 75% by 2040 and net-zero by 2050. HMLP is already there and is continuing to look for non-carbon supply. Additionally, the munis are required to file an annual report with DOER that demonstrates compliance. If a muni does not meet the statutory requirements, they will have to pay into a fund that will be used to bring them into compliance. Additionally, under SB 2995, munis can no longer sell RECs and have energy from those suppliers count towards their annual percentage. Ultimately, in 2019, the Board made a decision to sell the RECs available to sell, buy replacement RECs and buy sufficient RECs to offset current fossil fuel supply. For 2019 and 2020 (estimate), after HMLP sold RECs, retired RECs and buying replacement RECs, it netted \$1.4m. The Board voted to take the proceeds and invest those dollars in carbon-free supply so the money earned will allow HMLP to increase its carbon-free footprint.

#### **Executive Session:**

**At 0924 on a motion duly made by the Vice-Chairman and seconded by the Secretary it was unanimously voted to move to Executive Session.**