



HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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General Manager
Thomas Morahan
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John P. Ryan, Chairman
Roger M. Freeman, Vice-Chairman
Laura M. Burns, Secretary

REGULAR MEETING
HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
June 29, 2021
7:30 A.M. – Meeting via Zoom

MEETING NOTES

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/C8x-2t0XgfinIurO2z-A0BjDBHNGmwzhsc6_JAWN2uQwXocXjo8d1T7bHCAzsXvS.yw-lvW-UMarwWJzo?startTime=1624965868000

Meeting Called to Order:

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP) was called to order at approximately 0730 on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, via Zoom.

Present:

John P. Ryan
Roger M. Freeman
Laura Burns
Paul Heanue, General Manager, (GM)
Tom Morahan, Assistant General Manager (Assistant GM)

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The GM presented for consideration the minutes for meetings held on April 27, 2021 and on May 19, 2021. Follow-up questions from Ms. Burns concerned (i) obtaining copies of the FERC submission for the Board, and (ii) confirmation that the matter discussed in Executive Session in April was complete.

Motion: A motion was duly made by Mr. Ryan to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2021 and the May 19, 2021 meeting, and was seconded by Mr. Freeman. Ms. Burns, who was not a Board member at the time, abstained. The minutes were unanimously approved.

HMLP Board Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Motion: A motion was duly made by Ms. Burns nominating Mr. Ryan as Chair. Mr. Freeman seconded the nomination. Mr. Ryan was voted unanimously as Chair.

Motion: A motion was duly made by Ms. Burns to nominate Mr. Freeman as Vice-Chair. Mr. Ryan seconded the nominated. Mr. Freeman was voted unanimously as Vice-Chair.

Motion: A motion was duly made by Mr. Ryan nominating Ms. Burns as Secretary. Ms. Burns clarified duties of Secretary and accepted nomination. Mr. Freeman seconded Mr. Ryan's nomination. Ms. Burns was voted unanimously as Secretary.

Election for ENE Board Seat

The ENE Board Seat will be open upon retirement of the GM on June 30, 2021. The GM outlined the composition of the current ENE Board, noting that the seats for owners/municipal plants are generally filled by their respective general managers. The Chairman expressed his thoughts that the person on the ENE Board should be familiar with the operation, include all the nuts and bolts and that person should be the Assistant GM. The Vice-Chairman expressed interest in the ENE Board and in appointing a Board Member to serve on it given the increased focus on renewable energy supply and decarbonizing the energy supply. The ENE Board meets 5 times a year, with strategic meeting in October. Question was raised regarding whether the Operating Agreement requires that the Seat be held by a general manager. It was noted that the current term for the Seat expires December 31, 2021 and the term is normally 3 years. The Secretary voiced her support for appointing the Assistant GM to fill the seat until December 31, 2021. The Chair suggested that the Board appoint the Assistant GM for remainder of year given his technical understanding how the system might be effected by various power options, and that the Operating Agreement be looked at. The Vice-Chair and Secretary noted their interest in attending ENE meetings, and this was discussed.

Motion: A motion was duly made by the Chair nominating the Assistant GM, Mr. Morahan, for the open ENE Board Seat. The Secretary seconded the nomination. Mr. Morahan was voted unanimously to serve on ENE Board.

Following the motion, it noted that the matter be revisited as an Agenda around December 31, 2021. The GM offered to ask ENE about Board Members attending meetings. The Assistant GM is to notify Board Members of meeting dates.

HMLP Board Meetings Remote or In-Person

The GM opened discussions on whether to continue remote meetings, noting that recent Town correspondence indicates that this to allowed through April 1, 2022. Board members supported remote meeting option, noting that this increases public participation. It was also noted that HMLP might want to purchase a camera for its conference room so that Board Members can go there for Zoom meetings. Assistant GM will look into purchasing camera.

Motion: A motion was duly made by the Chair to continue the ability of the Board members and the public to meet remotely for as long as Board has statutory ability to do so. The Secretary seconded motion. Unanimous vote in favor of motion.

Following motion, the Chair indicated his desire to have the Department draft a letter to the Selectmen requesting that they continue to allow remote participation into the future.

Financials:

The GM presented the Board with financial statistics.

- kWh sold in April 2021 up by 1m (14.8m kWh for April 2021, 13.9m kWh for April 2020 and 13.9m kWh for April 2019).
- Revenue for April 2021 was essentially the same (April 2021 was \$2.3m, April 2020 was \$2.3m and April 2019 was \$2.3m).

- Expenses for April 2021 were somewhat lower (April 2021 was \$1.9m, April 2020 was \$2.0m and April 2019 was \$2.1m).
- Net income for April 2021 was one-third higher than 2020 and 2019 (April 2021 was \$375.2k, April 2020 was \$275.4k and April 2019 was 210.3k).
- kWh Sales YTD: \$62.3m kWh for April 2021; \$61.2m for April 2020; and \$62.4m kWh for April 2019).
- Revenue YTD was very close (\$10m for April 2021; \$9.9m for April 2020; and \$10m for April 2019).
- Expenses YTD: \$9.5m for April 2021; \$9.21 for April 2020; and \$9.9m for April 2019.
- Net Income YTD: \$523k for April 2021; \$745k; for April 2020 and \$73k for April 2019.

The GM noted that HMLP's budget is on track for 4% return this year. The GM noted spike in pricing from hot weather and expected sales increases. Discussions turned to whether having battery in service during recent hot weather would have been a cost benefit.

Battery Storage Updates

The GM noted that they are still troubleshooting difficulties with battery and timing of discharge. The COD date was supposed to be December 18th but was extended January 18th due to foundation issues. There is a liquidated damages clause in the Agreement that is capped at \$140K. There was a drop-dead date for telling Kruger to remove battery which was May 18, but the GM did not invoke this and is continuing to negotiate. Kruger was able to run some successful discharges, but issues remain. Kruger wants to make HMLP whole and will have independent expert evaluate. If cannot fix, battery will be removed. Installing a new battery system will take 3 to 4 months. The Liquidated damages will be extended to December 18th, 2021. The GM hopes to resolve with Kruger.

HMLP Assist the Town in Assessing Their Roof for Solar Potential

The GM was asked by the Secretary to look into role HMLP might take in facilitating the evaluation of Town-owned roofs for solar projects. The Secretary indicated that while attending a School Committee Capital Committee meeting, she raised the idea of asking HMLP to get a consultant to look at the solar potential of school roof and that there was interest. The GM and Board Members discussed the role HMLP might have to assist in this capacity. It was discussed that HMLP can evaluate successful vendors, and that the preferred model for such projects, similar to what was done with regard to the landfill, is for HMLP to serve more as developer than contractor.

Motion: A motion was duly made by the Secretary, and reiterated by the GM, for the HMLP and the Commissioners to engage the Hingham School Department and the Town, and to assist them in evaluating facilities for solar potential, and to help initiate solar development projects if appropriate. The Chair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional transmission line and new substation

HMLP is moving forward with layout of substation at landfill. The site plans have been sent to Randy Sylvester for his review and comment. The site will not extend to paved section of landfill, nor onto conservation land or Art. 97 land. The lot is being surveyed, there appears to be enough room on the parcel for the proposed substation base on the information we have provided. The survey plans are expected to be completed by mid-July. There is a half dozen potential routes for tapping to the transmission line, and an evaluation of the routes is underway. Tigh and Bond is working on grading scores as they relate to the transmission routes.

Question was raised whether if net zero goal was reached, would the landfill footprint would be sufficient to accommodate an additional transformer for future electrification demands. The GM indicated that the substation should be enough.

Landfill

Approved by municipality. DEP has to approve, waiting on the post closure permit. Developer believes should be able to get this going. Developer still needs to meet with the DPW.

EV chargers

The Assistant GM indicated that HMLP has applied for Level 3 chargers for electric vehicles (EVs). Have contacted State and anticipate knowing mid-fall. Waiting on estimate for Level 2 EV chargers for Station Street, South Shore Country Club and Carlson Field. Two (2) chargers for each location. Once proposal received, will submit application to State.

The GM noted that HMLP has netted approximately \$1.3m for renewables energy credits. It was discussed that building solar canopies at Town properties might be worth doing. Canopies at T-Station were wired for chargers but were not installed. Desire is to increase renewable footprint.

It was also discussed that the chargers are needed at places where there are commuters. The EV chargers will be rigged for billing. Want to prevent people from using all day. Slower chargers will be available for commuters, and faster chargers will be for visitors.

Choice Connect - remote meter reading system

The GM continuing to evaluate whether system reads all meters and to where there are problems. Collectors cannot read meters in certain apartments where meters are in enclosed room. Additional collectors have been ordered and will be here in Oct. or Nov. Want replacement connectors on hand as well. Having this system will show consumption patterns and help with planning to prevent incidents.

Other New Business

The Vice-Chair asked for information regarding green incentives through ENE. GM discussed that ENE evaluated green rebates program at end of 2020. Some incentive kept, some dropped. There are incentives for encouraging heat pumps. Assistant GM is finalizing agreement with ABODE. Programs at other towns support air source heat pumps, customer education and quality assurance and listing preferred contractors. The Chair asked about whether there might be a legislative mandate for changes. The GM noted that the Building Code to be restructured by end of 2022. At local level, will need due diligence for town meeting. The Secretary noted that efforts to promote "Electrify Hingham" will need marketing, incentives and an educational element.

The Vice-Chair requested that the HMLP website be updated.

Mr. Reive of the Hingham Energy Action Committee asked about a potential battery backup system for the new Public Safety Building. GM discussed that the battery contract would need to address this. The Vice-Chair noted that battery use during emergencies might be of interest if space and savings available. The Chair noted the reliability of HMLP and that outages are not prolonged. It was discussed that having this might have symbolic value.

The Chair thanked outgoing GM, Mr. Heanue, for his ten (10) years of service and his outstanding job. The GM, Mr. Heanue, thanked his employees, the Board and the Town of Hingham.

Motion to Adjourn:

On a motion duly made by the Chairman and seconded by the Secretary it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 0937.