



HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

31 Bare Cove Park Drive
Hingham, MA 02043-1585
(781) 749-0134 FAX (781) 749-1396
www.hmlp.com

General Manager
Paul G. Heanue
pheanue@hmlp.com

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

REGULAR MEETING
HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
April 27th, 2021
7:30 A.M. – Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Called to Order:

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP) was called to order at 0732 on Tuesday, April 27, 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); guests Brenda Black, Michael Reive, Elliott Place, Laura Burns, Patti Coyle, Hingham residents.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The GM presented the meeting minutes for the March 30, 2021 meeting to the Board for their consideration.

MOTION

A motion was duly made by the Vice-Chairman to accept the minutes of the March 30, 2021 meeting. The Secretary seconded and they unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2021 meeting.

Financials:

The GM explained that the financials for March are unavailable due to a major upgrade conducted 2-3 weeks ago to the HMLP billing software. After that upgrade there have been at least 3 different problems that have manifested – one of which makes it impossible to present the financials to the Board. The software customer support from Cogsdale, the vendor, has been exhausted so they are turning to Microsoft to help solve the problem as it is a Microsoft based product. Additionally the annual audit has been pushed out until these problems have been resolved.

Communication equipment issues

During the week of April 19th, the HMLP and South Shore Regional Emergency Communications Center (SSRECC) radio systems crashed. HMLP leases a bungalow on Turkey Hill where the radio equipment for both is stored. There were significant leaks in the roof of the bungalow that caused multiple pieces of HMLP and SSRECC's equipment to fail. The radio vendor who maintains our and SSRECC's equipment and the company, Crown Castle, that owns the tower and bungalow were immediately contacted. The radio vendor inspected and initiated repairs and the owner of the building made temporary repairs to the leaking roof. The owners of the facility are 100% responsible for maintenance of the building. Over the past 11 years, there was only one other instance where a failure to properly maintain the bungalow has caused issues - rodents gnawing on wires. The GM has spoken with the owner and advised they are responsible for maintenance and HMLP expects they will pay for the repairs.

The next day the HMLP telephone system went down making it impossible to communicate with our customers by telephone. This was completely unrelated to the radio problems. We were unable to transfer incoming calls to the answering service as the problem affected the ability to perform that transfer and their ability to receive a transferred call. The GM called the SSRECC and the police and fire chiefs to let them know what was happening. The SSRECC said they would reach out to the HMLP Line Division Manager via his cell to let him know about any trouble calls they might receive. After a series of test calls and calls to Comcast, the company from whom we get our telephone service, it was determined there was a Comcast area outage that was resolved fairly quickly. The GM is looking into what is needed to quickly swap over from Comcast to Verizon if there is another Comcast outage.

“Jump Ball” FERC Docket No. ER21-1637-000 – ISO New England, Inc.

At ISO NE, there are various committees that weigh in on and determine pending policies. If the various committees cannot come to a consensus, they will take votes amongst the participants and if they don't get the necessary % of votes for a yay or nay there is a “jump ball” process that sends the issue to FERC. Currently ISO-NE is attempting to prop up some of the older fossil fuel at the expense of renewables. HMLP and approximately a dozen other munis are intervening along with a number of other groups that have official standing. The Secretary requested that the GM send a copy of what is being submitted to the Board for their review. Once received, the GM will circulate to the Board.

Updates:

Battery storage

The battery storage facility is closer to coming online. HMLP does not own it but rather has a revenue savings sharing agreement with Kruger Energy who owns and is responsible for building and maintaining it. The COD date was supposed to be December 18th but because of issues with the foundation upon which the system will sit not being as thick as it was presumed to be HMLP extended the COD until January 15th. As of right now it appears they are going to be 3 1/2 to 4 months late bringing the system online. There is a liquidated damages clause in the Kruger agreement with a cap of approximately \$140k and a construction completion drop dead date of May 18th. If the system is not fully functioning by then HMLP can order Kruger to abandon the project. Even if that happens Kruger is still responsible for liquidated damages. As various construction problems manifested and completion of the project continued to be delayed Kruger asked for the liquidated damages to be waived. The GM would not waive the liquidated damages

clause. Kruger was reportedly getting close to declaring COD when the system suddenly went offline again. After troubleshooting they replaced one inverter and performed some modifications to the other. They ran a second witness test and the system passed. One of the remaining items to COD is to finish training, the HMLP Kruger contract requires 16 hours of training, ENE personnel who will manage the battery for HMLP. Another open item is the clean-up landscaping from their having dug up the area adjacent to the water retention berm. The Conservation Board agent has directed Kruger's contractor as to what needs to be done here. Approximately \$100,000 in lost savings has been realized by not having the battery in service. When the battery finally comes online ENE will calculate the amount of lost savings.

Additional transmission line and new substation

The HMLP team is continuing to evaluate the parcel at the landfill that was identified as a potential landing spot for the sub-station. Nearly three-quarters of an acre of space is required for it. Town wide electrification of heating, hot water, transportation etc. will require a 4th sub-station sized transformer for HMLP so the sub-station will need to be large enough to accommodate it even though it won't be necessary Day 1 of the new facility. The current new sub-station plans do not call for HMLP to extend into the paved area of the landfill so it is expected the new location will not impact landfill operations. HMLP will continue to communicate with the folks who manage the landfill to ensure we don't do anything that hampers their operation.

Solar array at the landfill

HMLP's vendor and the DEP are continuing to share information. It is hoped construction will begin in early May. The project was approved by the Hingham Planning Board and no appeals to that decision were filed.

EV chargers

HMLP's Assistant GM described having applied for state grants for four (4) electric vehicle chargers at various locations throughout town. The grants are expected to be awarded sometime in October. The Assistant GM was meeting with a vendor on April 27th to investigate possible sites. The locations for the level 2 chargers are Station Street, South Shore Country Club and Carlson Field. A local gas station asked HMLP for help evaluating its suitability for a level 2 and possible level 3 chargers. There is a potential for state grant money for level 2 chargers. The corporation that owns the gas station is reportedly interested in using it as a pilot program for electric vehicle chargers for them. The gas station is close to Route 3 which will make it a particularly attractive place to have a fast charger. The chargers will fit just about every car. Teslas need a specific type charger but for the most part the chargers will work with all other EVs.

Choice Connect - remote meter reading system

HMLP signed a contract to implement a remote meter reading system with Itron who is the current meter reading system owner. This system will allow us to read all our meters every 15 minutes. We've received the repeaters and have started installing them. One of the repeaters that has been installed is close to HMLP's Operations Center and it is successfully transmitting data. HMLP is currently installing these repeaters at the locations Itron designated. Another benefit of this system is with outage management. If someone's meter is not broadcasting consumption data HMLP will know there is a problem likely before hearing from the customer. HMLP will also be able to see consumption patterns down to 15 minute increments. Currently HMLP collects monthly

consumption but not hourly/time of day. The ability to read our meters this way will allow HMLP to implement time of use rates.

Other

On April 27th HMLP started terminating service for non-payment. November 2019 was the last time HMLP terminated service for non-payment. There is traditionally a winter moratorium for terminating service which was about to end when COVID-19 struck in earnest back in March 2020. The state asked, and HMLP acquiesced, to not terminate customers' service for non-payment during COVID. It has been 18-19 months, vs the normal 6 months moratorium, since HMLP last terminated customers for non-payment. Typically HMLP sets a floor of \$150 past due for terminating service but given the large number of customers owing that much we established a floor of \$250. HMLP started out this spring with 380 customers on the shutoff list. Usually the first list coming out of the winter moratorium has about 200 customers owing at least \$150 each. Since the current list was initially developed with 380 customer names HMLP has been working with those customers to create payment plans. By the time field personnel actually went out to terminate service only 60 customer names remained on the list.

Executive Session:

At 0834 on a motion duly made by the Vice-Chairman and seconded by the Secretary it was unanimously voted to move to Executive Session.

At 0910 on a motion duly made by the Secretary and seconded by the Chairman it was unanimously voted to move out of Executive Session.

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 0911.