

Hingham Municipal Light Plant
Tuesday
September 28, 2004
Town Hall

Attendees:

Kevin Bulman, Chairman

John Stoddard, Secretary

Walter Foskett

John Tzimorangas, General Manager

Chairman Bulman called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Review and Approval of previous Board Meeting Minutes -August 30, 2004

The previous minutes have been reviewed and a question was presented by Commissioner Foskett regarding the discrimination section missing from the content of the Code of Conduct Policy. John Tzimorangas replied that this would be addressed in the final review of the policy.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of August 30, 2004.

Power Supply Update

The General Manager stated the Power Supply Contract conference calls will be completed by October 11th. He also stated HMLP can go back out if bid amounts are not acceptable. Commissioner Foskett asked how long the contracts were good for. The General Manager replied they have been out to 2011, but as short as 12 months. Commissioner Stoddard inquired about the pricing. The General Manager replied 5.3 or 5.4 cents for 5 years was a price HMLP was targeting. Commissioner Stoddard asked the General Manager if Dominion was the lowest and he confirmed that they have been.

Hobart Street

The General Manager gave a summary of the Consultant's findings at the Hobart Street substation. HMLP hired a consultant from Hopedale to look at expanding Hobart Street area or finding another site for expansion of the substation.

The consultants reported:

1. The Station is neatly maintained.
2. The Control House is a bit crowded because of the limited space but very clean.
3. UPG Test Report –Repair Report was found for the transformer bushing.
4. The current circuit switches are good for 7,000 amps. The new circuit switchers are rated for 40,000 amps. It will be \$50,000 per switch to replace.
5. There were no protection issues with Metering and Protection Schemes.

Expansion Options

1. Maximize use of Feeder Bays – Expand existing Control House.
2. Acquire another site in Hingham – Only advantage is another incoming line.
3. Add 3rd Transformer – 88MW – Peak will be around 50MW by 2010.

Station Expansion Layout

The General Manager reported If HMLP stays within the existing station no formal Permit processing or review from conservation will be necessary based on preliminary discussions with the Town.

Commissioner Foskett inquired about price. The General Manager responded:

1. If existing feeders and Bays are utilized the price ranges is \$200,000 to \$300,000 dollars, not including distribution.
2. Expansion of existing Control House - \$90,000 -\$100,000 per bay (\$300,000 - \$700,000 - will depend on how many Bays).
3. Transformers including new switch gear - 2 1/2 to 3 million dollars including new switch gear, cable work, and getaways.
4. New Station – \$5 – \$10 million dollars and HMLP will need to find land.

Commissioner Stoddard asked what the time table would be for the new Station. The General Manager responded 2-4 years. Commissioner Stoddard also inquired about existing space, highest risk, and what the consultants recommend. The consultants recommend capacitors and upgraded circuit switchers. Commissioner Foskett asked the General Manager what the next step would be. The General Manager replied he would like to look at other options with hard numbers and take the 3 top recommendations. If the board is comfortable with the expansion, put an RFP out for engineering services with a time frame and amount. HMLP will need the expansion by April 2006. Chairman Bulman accepted questions and comment from the floor. What Footprint is required? A recommendation to find a site now for the future was given from the floor. The General Manager replied to the floor: Depending on what is put at the site, the requirement would be at least a lot of the size of the Hobart Street property.

VEGETATION REVIEW SUMMARY

1. ACT Report due from ACRT Company on October 3, 2004
2. ACRT spent two weeks looking at the current conditions including types of trees and workload.
3. Used 10% random statistical sampling to determine more trimming must be done in order to prevent operational problems. Currently have 104 trees per Line Mile and the national average is 79 trees per Line Mile.
4. Reliability Program could be better, need written policy. Recommended 33% of the impact trees be removed rather than trimmed.
5. Recommend Tree Trim/ Removal and Replacement Program.

Commissioner Foskett asked what was needed in regards to Conservation. The General Manager replied: a) Planning Board approval, b) Hire a Forester and part of their contract is to obtain all the necessary permits. The General Manager also noted the Duxbury Tree Warden offered to discuss his experience with the Board. Chairman Bulman accepted a question from the floor: Are telephone and cable companies responsible for any cost of the tree trimming? The General Manager replied: The Telephone Company will consider paying half the total amount if submitted by September 2nd. They are not obligated; it depends on the Intercompany Operating Policy. The Cable Company is not an owner and the attachment fees covers maintenance. Commissioner Stoddard asked about cost figures. The General Manager stated they would be in the final report.

Manager's Report

1. **Abington Street** – Conversion to HMLP system has been completed. Three phases will be necessary to pick up load on Sharpe Street in the future.
2. **Union Management Meetings** – Meeting arranged for week of October 18th to address issues and concerns and improve communications.
3. **State of Town Forum** – Sunday, October 24th, 1pm-4pm. General Manager will attend. Chairman Bulman and the Commissioners noted date and time and will also try to attend.
4. **Energy Rebate Program** – 43 customers have taken paperwork for rebate and a total of 21 have returned paperwork.
5. **Billing System** –RFP's on billing system to go out by the end of October and completed by January. Mary Ann McDonald, a Hingham resident, worked on Reading's billing RFP has offered to volunteer her services on the RFP's.
6. **Derby Street** – Buildings are energized and receiving meter sets everyday.
7. **Blue Cross/Blue Shield Project** – There will be a three week delay in starting project.
8. **Queen Ann's Corner** - May be expanding intersection.
9. **Shipyard** – Waiting for a date to sit down with principles. We have provided them the HMLP requirements and electrical system layout.

Long Range Strategy Committee Meeting

Overview on Power Supply, costs, new products, projections, and new developments in the future were given to the Committee. The General Manager will give copies to Board Members. Commissioner Foskett stated the Selectman would like to conclude the Committee by February or March. The Committee will also meet with Selectman before the second half of process.

Chairman Bulman asked the General Manager for recommendations for the Substation. The General Manager replied there is a need for a decision on an agreement for the Power Supply. An agreement could be reached soon if market price is right. Commissioner Foskett noted the need for policy on financial instruments to hedge against power problems such as outages. This is currently being reviewed with Laurie Heffron.

Commissioner Stoddard commented he would be interested in working with the Arborist and all members agreed. Chairman Bulman asked the General Manager when the detail Substation Report would be ready. The General Manager replied, by the next meeting and would be ready for a vote.

Conversation commenced on land options, Wampanoag State Park, Mount Blue area of Norwell and the Weymouth Great Ester Park area could be options for a new substation site. The General Manager is trying to find information from the state on the land. Chairman Bulman accepted a comment from the floor: In an initial study, 18 years ago, Hingham received an unfavorable response regarding Wampanoag State Park. Chairman Bulman noted it may be worth looking into again since study was done so long ago. The General Manager said he was open to all options but worried about deadlines. The General Manager concluded RFP's would be ready by the next meeting. The Chairman offered helping with alternative sights, and the General Manager said he would appreciate any help.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

John A. Stoddard, Jr., Secretary